Muscogee Nation News

Official Semi-Monthly Publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Tiger takes the reins

- New leadership aims to move the Muscogee Nation forward

Jan. 10, 2012
Vol. 42, Issue 1 - Special Edition

MNN/*Gary Fife*

Pictured above is newly-elected Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger repeating the oath of office from Muscogee (Creek) Nation Supreme Court Justice Leah Harjo-Ware at the inauguration ceremony held Sat., Jan. 7, 2012 in Okmulgee, Okla.

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — Amidst cultural tradition and music, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) installed its new leadership and government, Jan. 7 at the Claude Cox Multi-purpose building. New Principal Chief George Tiger, Second Chief Roger Barnett and new members of the National Council took their public oaths of office before a full house of Muscogee citizens and guests.

Calling it a "changing of the guard for the Muscogee Nation", newly sworn-in Tiger used his inaugural address to unveil his agenda for the new administration. Topping that agenda were the subjects of health care, education, job creation and housing. Tiger declared that he also wanted to bring the MCN "back to prominence it once held as a leader and innovator among all sovereign tribal nations."

In his speech, Tiger emphasized several times that the planned changes would not be easy, that there were hard challenges facing the tribe and that the "time for complacency and status quo is gone." He vowed that he was committed to being "transparent and accountable" to Muscogee citizens.

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Beginning with the Judicial Branch, Tiger discussed his most pressing issues. He plans to set up a new three court structure dividing incoming cases into criminal, civil, and family specialties. He said he will appoint Supreme Court justices and conduct a financial audit of the judiciary. Court rulings will be reviewed for their legality and he has begun a nomination process for a new Attorney General, Roger Wiley. A new interim chief of the Lighthorse Police, Richard Fixico, has been named.

SEE TIGER - 2

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National Council elects Alexander as Speaker, Ridge as Second Speaker

Lee Longhorn
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE — Sam Alexander was elected Speaker of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council by the seventeenth session on Saturday, Jan. 7, 2011. Alexander is currently seat D from Tulsa District. The event was held prior to the inauguration of Principal Chief George Tiger, Second Chief Roger Barnett and the National Council.

According to the Constitution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, the National Council will elect from their own body a speaker and a second speaker.

Cherrah Ridge from Tulsa District was elected as Second Speaker. Shirlene Ade from Tukvpvtce District was elected as Sergeant-at-Arms.

The seventeenth session of the National Council currently has 17 members serving. Creek District Seat B is vacant with the recent election of George Tiger to Principal Chief. Tiger has 60 days to set an election date for the vacant seat, according to the MCN Election Board.

In 2009, registered voters of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation passed an amendment to the constitution reducing the number of National Council seats. The Constitution now limits 16 seats to be filled.

The 2013 National Council election will reduce the number of seats.

According to the amended constitution, each district will only have two representatives.

MCN Supreme Court elects Supernaw as Chief Justice, Deer as Vice-Chief

Media Release
MCN Supreme Court

OKMULGEE — While in regular session, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Supreme Court justices elected new Chief and Vice-Chief justices Dec. 20, 2011, in accordance with the Constitution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Article VII, § 4.

As of Jan. 2, 2012, Kathleen R. Supernaw shall serve as the court's Chief Justice and Montie R. Deer shall serve as its Vice-Chief Justice.

Neither Justice Supernaw nor Justice Deer participated in the voting for their respective offices as the Court was unanimous in its agreement for their selection.

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Muscogee Nation News
STAFF

Manager - Gerald Wofford
Editor - Rebecca Landsberry
Editorial Assistant - Gary Fife

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Please contact our office for deadline of submissions to be considered for inclusion. ***The Muscogee Nation News*** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate ***The Muscogee Nation News*** in any regard.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed from Stigler, Okla., to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

TO CHANGE OR SUBMIT AN ADDRESS, PLEASE CALL (918) 732-7720 or send e-mail to: wmurphy@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

Barnett sworn in as Second Chief

• Bristow native takes oath at MCN Inauguration

MNN/*Gerald Wofford*

Roger Barnett took the official oath of office as Second Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation at the Inauguration held Saturday, Jan. 7, 2012 in the Multipurpose Building on the Claude Cox Omniplex in Okmulgee, Okla.

Roger Barnett
MCN Second Chief

OKMULGEE — *The following is Second Chief Roger Barnett's inaugural address to the citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation:*

Chief Tiger, representatives of the National Council, distinguished guests, citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, I am humbled and honored to stand before you today. Chief Tiger and I have already begun the work of moving this Nation forward. As this Nation moves forward, there are things that we must do as Creeks.

First, we must remember the past. If we forget the past we will lose our heritage, our culture, our identity. We must educate our children to preserve our language, maintain our grounds, learn and understand our traditions, study our history, and honor our elders. We must learn what it is that made us the great people that we are today. We must also, learn what mistakes have been made in the past so that we can avoid those same mistakes in the future.

Second, we must live in the present and I mean truly live. Reject the materialism, selfishness, and corruption of the world around us. We are a spiritual, vibrant, and prosperous people. Love and help one another so that we can all enjoy the many great gifts that we have been blessed with. Get involved in your government and your communities. Learn what is happening, talk with your tribal leaders, talk with me, talk with your representatives. Get involved in your church, help you neighbors, spend time with your family. Rid your lives of those things that are destructive to your life.

Finally, we must plan for the future. I do not want the Creek Nation to be content with mere survival. We should plan to thrive. What will the Muscogee (Creek) Nation look like in 100 years. I want our Nation to be sovereign, strong and self-sufficient. We are laying the foundation for the future of our Nation right now. We must have a vision for what our future Nation will look like. You must have a vision for the Nation that you will leave behind for your children and grandchildren.

I have lived here all my life. I know most of you. While I cannot name each of you individually, I would like to thank all of you for your help and support. I would especially like to thank my Mother. . . I recognize the great responsibility that you have charged me with and I promise to do my best to help Chief Tiger move our great Nation forward.

Letter from MNN Editor:

OKMULGEE — Happy New Year and mvto for continuing to read the *Muscogee Nation News*. As you see, we have returned to the broadsheet size, which gives us a little more room to be creative with our words and photography.

Hopefully this edition gives you a picture (or two) of what it was like to be part of this historical day. I hope if you weren't able to attend the actual event here in Okmulgee, you were able to view it via a live stream on the Website. Over 4,000 were said to have attended the ceremony including state officials, tribal representatives from all over the U.S., and even the legendary Barry Switzer.

The Tiger Administration is currently assembling a team of leaders who aim to improve and advance the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. We will publish a comprehensive list of these positions as soon as it becomes available.

Our new leaders certainly have a big job to do, but I encourage you to be candid about your needs as a citizen. Your input in the governance of this tribe is truly essential and invaluable.

We will be still be publishing the mid-month edition later in January, which will include all the community calendar events, features and authored submissions, so fret not.

If you have news, events or story ideas, please contact the Communications Department at (918) 732-7720 or email me at RLandsberry@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

Tiger

Continued from Page 1

As the number one issue, Tiger announced the Health Division will undergo changes. Tiger will appoint a new advisory board, a new health administrator and update the health improvement plan. A new Housing Director, J.D. Colbert will be asked to develop streamlined application guidelines and to expedite housing services.

In addition, the new Chief wants a major review of community issues such as gaming, finances, revenue allocation plans and community meetings.

Tiger said his priority is "to enhance and strengthen our communities and allow them to dictate their own destiny with their input."

The MCN Controllers' Office will be undergoing new policy and procedures. Tiger plans to decentralize that office and move greater financial authority to program managers for use of program budgets. A customer service oriented approach will be a priority along with a review of past management decisions, a wide range of processes used and a reorganization of that office. Tiger is also considering the creation of an Office of Management and Budget to oversee financial operations.

The economic direction of the tribe will see change. Tiger spoke of new Gaming Operations Authority Board, a possible three member Gaming Commission and some reorganization of tribal economic ventures into corporate charters. A new Small Business Development Center office is proposed with an aim towards job creation for Muscogee citizens.

The lack of a tobacco compact between the tribe and the state of Oklahoma has been an obstacle in those relations. Tiger has spoken with the Governor's Office to arrange a meeting on that topic, "I can share with you that I've had dialogue with Gov. Fallin's office. We have, to some substance, agreed to try to meet in the next two weeks to try and hammer that out."

Other priorities in Tigers' speech were mentions of was the implementation of a Tribal Employee Rights Office along with a review of the Employee Protection Act and the policies of the Wage and Salary Board. The role of the Office of the Second Chief will be included in a tribal Vision Statement to be presented in his first State of the Nation Address to be given Jan. 28, 2012.

Finally, Tiger said, he wants to develop new partnerships with local, state and federal governments. Any past adversarial relationships must be overcome he said, and that "Remember, we're Oklahomans, too!"

The Kialegee casino project was a topic of interest during the press conference, but Public Relations Manager Edwin Marshall announced that the meeting with the press was to focus on the new administration and not the Broken Arrow project. However, questions were raised and Tiger gave a response.

An official statement on the Kialegee casino will be made after a study on the situation is completed. In describing the relationship with the Kialegee tribal town, Tiger said, "I'll just say this, they're Creek and we're unique. Our whole government is based around tribal towns concepts. So that's the unique relationship."

But Tiger added, he was aware of frustrations being expressed the residents of Broken Arrow, "The best way to answer that — the frustration that they see, that I see them having, is the same frustration that we have at Muscogee (Creek) Nation. We're trying to address that so that it can be addressed officially with the right information so that all of this can be on the same level."

The official status of the land in question and the legality of the planned Broken Arrow casino is still to be determined. He noted that there was a lot of misinformation going around about the casino and that he wanted to have a correct understanding of the facts before making a statement on behalf of the MCN. Such a statement will be forthcoming near the end of January.

MNN/*Rebecca Landsberry*

Principal Chief George Tiger shakes hands with survivor of the Bataan Death March and Muscogee (Creek) citizen Phillip Coon.

GREAT SEAL OF THE

GREAT SEAL OF THE
MUSCOGEE NATION I. T.

Tribes impact Dallas / Ft. Worth

DFW Chamber of Commerce hosts sixth annual event

MNN/*Rebecca Landsberry*

The Choctaw Nation Dancers and chanter performed traditional dances as part of the evening's entertainment at the sixth annual DFW Chamber of Commerce Native American Awareness Expo held Dec. 6, 2011 in Parker, Texas. Participants including current Principal Chief George Tiger (pictured center) were asked to join a few of the dances by the performers.

Rebecca Landsberry
MNN Editor

PARKER, Texas — The DFW Native American Chamber of Commerce hosted the sixth annual Native American Awareness Expo Dec. 6, 2011 at the Southfork Ranch in Parker, Texas.

The expo is an opportunity for individuals in Dallas / Ft. Worth to learn more about how indigenous commerce and prosperity can impact tribal members and others living in the area. Native vendors were invited to spend the day exhibiting their crafts, merchandise and promotional products to the public. A live auction was also held to raise funds benefitting the organization.

The Choctaw Nation dancers and chanter provided entertainment during a buffet dinner with the Raccoon Dance and others in which the dancers invited members of the crowd to participate.

Guest speakers included several Oklahoma tribes including the Choctaw, Chickasaw and Comanche nations as well as the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Public Relations Representative Edwin Marshall spoke on behalf of the tribe and introduced Principal Chief George Tiger.

"Every administration has brought change and has brought improvement in some form or another … As this administration ends and we enter into another one, we're looking for even bigger and brighter things," Marshall stated.

Tiger commented on accomplishments of all tribes contributing to the area and how it relates to Native collectivism.

"One of the things I like about being Indian. . . is that we help each other. We have to reach back to our tradition and culture and always try to help whenever and wherever you can. Our boundaries as Indian tribes go beyond the historical and traditional areas that we come from. They extend coast-to-coast, border-to-border. As Indian people, we're communal people. My dad used to say, if someone needs help, don't just offer you hand, offer your heart as well," Tiger said.

Tiger stated that Native Americans enjoy the shared successes of each nation.

"I believe that when we see success, regardless of where we may come from. . . that means we, as Indian people are succeeding. When one tribe succeeds, as you saw with the presentation from the Chickasaw Nation, that as tribes, we all succeed. And when one business succeeds, that means all tribal businesses, all individual business owners, are succeeding," he added.

Both Marshall and Tiger referenced U.S. history and the failed attempts by the federal government to stall progress of Native people, whose determination has withstood many tests and trials but whose affluence across the country is now quantifiable.

"After attempts to terminate our people . . . After attempts to relocate them from their mother lands, I see our people of different tribes succeeding in today's world and I can say with pride, Indian Country is alive and well in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area," Tiger said.

Tiger left attendees with a message spoken in the Mvskoke language.

"At some point and time, after you and I are in our final resting place, we can look back and know that on this evening, . . . in the future, someone will be saying, 'keep going.'"

For more information on the DFW Native American Chamber of Commerce, call (972) 422-9192.

Coon takes flight of honor to D.C.

Oklahoma Honor Flights allow Bataan Death March survivor opportunity to visit nation's capitol

Gerald Wofford
MCN Communications Manager

WASHINGTON, D.C. — One of the many highlights of the past year had to be the visit to Washington, D.C., on behalf of the Oklahoma Honor Flights (OHF) organization.

I was asked to attend as a media representative for Phillip Coon. Coon's story has been well documented in many issues of the Muscogee Nation News, and the tribally produced T.V. program *Native News Today* because of his status as a World War II prisoner of war in the Pacific as well a Bataan Death March survivor.

The OHF allows World War II veterans to visit the many historic monuments in the Nations Capitol including the WWII monument and Arlington Cemetery. Created in September 2009, the OHF has been sponsoring veterans and giving them an opportunity to visit the nation's capitol as their inaugural flight began in September of 2010.

The particular trip that we were privileged to be a part of was lead by Reps. Gary Banz and Eric Proctor, who both did an admirable job of making sure each veteran was taken care of and enjoyed their historic trip.

It was an honor to be asked by Phillip's son, Michael, who accompanied us on the trip. What is also unique about this event is that it all takes place in one day, which meant we had to leave the Tulsa International Airport at around 5 a.m., to make the nonstop flight to Baltimore. From there, it would take an additional hour to get to Washington, D.C. When we left the hotel in Owasso, Okla., where many of the veterans stayed to get an early start, we were treated like rock stars.

A giant entourage, which included a motorcycle escort, accompanied us to the airport. A lot of the veterans needed assistance getting from the bus to the airport gate. It was amazing to observe these men as they made their way; they were very happy to be amongst their 'own' and were in a jovial mood.

Phillip and Michael, himself a veteran, were the same as they happily introduced themselves and were introduced to other veterans. Many would find out that day that many of the former soldiers they were meeting had served their same tour of duty not far from each other, so the 'band of brothers' philosophy was alive and well that day.

As we arrived in Baltimore, a Navy escort was there to salute the veterans and made sure that they were honorably welcomed on the east coast. Their were other media representatives in attendance, such as Abbie Alford from the Tulsa Fox-23 station, but I was the only Native American media representative with a Native American veteran.

Our flight's arrival in Baltimore gave me time to call our radio show, which is broadcast each Wednesday morning, and tell hosts Rebecca Landsberry and Gary Fife exactly where we were and about the day's agenda. From there, we all boarded the buses to head to the nation's Capitol.

The organization made sure everyone was taken care of. Many of us were asked to assist the veterans on the bus as well as board their baggage inside the bus's compartments. The scenic drive from Baltimore took place on Highway 195, where the trees were green and the hills were very nice.

MNN/*Gerald Wofford*

The Oklahoma Honor Flights organization offers WWII veterans the opportunity to visit Washington, D.C. Phillip (left) and son Mike Coon were flown to the nation's capitol for a day of camaraderie with other veterans and sightseeing of some of the national monuments in the city.

SEE COON - 6

Coming and Going in Indian Country

by Joy Harjo

It's very early morning here in Oklahoma, still dark and quiet in the world. No buzz of what-I-have-to-do taking over the airwaves yet. The time of the dark is set aside for rest, for pondering and understanding. We all need to take our time in this place to remember who we are: a beloved people who are still walking through immense tests, individually and as a distinct nation.

January first marks the beginning of the New Year in the Gregorian calendar, a timekeeper we inherited from the Europeans. In this calendar we are at the beginning of the year, a time for evaluating where we've been, our failures and successes and for resolving changes. Most of us want to lose a few pounds. Some of us need to lose the extra person we're carrying around. We all need to lose the weight of jealousy, unresolved grief that goes way back past our parents, grandparents, all the way back. We need to lose those patterns and habits that keep us from standing tall and breathing in the beautiful day so we can walk forward together and help each other with inspired thoughts and actions.

I like thinking of each dawn as the beginning of a new year. Then, I get a new start every morning. Each day then becomes a microcosm of each year. It's not so overwhelming. For one day we can eat nourishing food, we can be nice to the person at work who always tests us, we can make that extra effort in all things, all thoughts, all actions. Then the string of days collects a shine and all things are possible.

When you wake up in the morning go outside. Turn to the East. East is the direction of beginnings. It is sunrise. When beloved Sun rises, it is an entrance, a door to fresh knowledge. Breath the light in. Call upon the assistance you need for the day. Give thanks.

When you go out you will see that the birds are out singing up the Sun. The plants too are turning in that direction.

And at dusk, as Sun leaves us, return to the station of remembering. When Sun leaves it makes a doorway. We have access to eternity. Breath out. Ask for forgiveness. Let all hurts and failures go. Let it all go.

The birds and animals turn inward and let go, as do the plants.

We are all in this ceremony together.

Another new beginning this morning is that of the new leadership. Tomorrow is the inauguration. It is therefore a sunrise point, and the beginning of a new path of meaning for the people. May we be guided by kindness, wisdom, and inspired knowledge. May leadership take great care of the resources of our people. Money, talents and knowledge are some of our collective resources.

"Everything matters", said the brilliant jazz trumpeter Miles Davis. "Everything".

Mvto.

Coon

Continued from Page 5

MNN/*Rebecca Landsberry*

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Phillip Coon and wife Helen Coon were seated on stage during the inauguration ceremony and recognized by Principal Chief George Tiger.

For the month of June, the weather in D.C., was incredibly hot as record temperatures were set and everyone was asked to drink water, which the organization provided in ice cold, giant coolers. As we left the buses, this 100 plus degree humid weather seemed to be no problem for Mike and Phillip, as we walked around the WW II monuments. The historical place, located between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial, as well as the Vietnam Wall and the Korean War Memorial, is divided into two parts, the Atlantic and Pacific Monuments with all the states marked on their individual monument. Of course, the Pacific and Oklahoma markers were especially keen to Phillip's attention. There were many veterans walking around by now and U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe even stopped by to visit the veterans as well as took pictures with them.

As we boarded the buses for the other stops on the trip, it was interesting to see all the veterans that seemed highly energetic as we made each visit around D.C. The next stop was the Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Wall and the Korean War Memorial. At this time, it was the middle of the day and the heat had become downright excruciating. I actually had to take a minute to get some water and get myself acclimated to the now 104 degree weather, but there were Michael and Phillip already out and about making their way toward the Vietnam Wall. It was surprising that on this day of excessive heat that there would be so many tourists about, and this is where Phillip became a rock star again. Many visitors around the Wall saw the military hat Phillip wore that day and began to ask him many questions. People even had their pictures taken with him that day, saying it was an honor just to shake his hand.

The last part of the trip would be to Arlington Cemetery where the entire group would witness the 'Changing of the Guard.' Any cemetery, no matter where it is located, invokes solemnness and respect and Arlington certainly filled that requisite.

To witness the 'Changing of the Guard' is a memorable event with the precision of the guards as they individually march back and forth to a required number of steps on the smoothly designed cement floor. By now, it was actually beginning to get toward dusk as the sun was heading toward the end of the eastern sky.

As we boarded the buses, it was easy to tell that everyone had a good time, as jovial laughter was heard from the oldest veteran to the youngest. OHF made the bus ride even more enjoyable for the veterans as a special 'mail call' on the bus ride was arranged. Family members were asked to write letters to each veteran in their family expressing themselves and were then handed out. It was interesting to watch as the roll call for each veteran's name was announced as they received their mail.

The attention well deserved for these veterans certainly wasn't over as we left the Baltimore Airport with a salute again from the armed forces as we left. We still had the trip back to Tulsa and by now darkness was growing. The arrival back into Oklahoma and the Tulsa International Airport wasn't quiet either as a military band, USO and Veterans Cycle groups welcomed us home.

Watching news stories about veterans arriving home and being embraced by their loved ones always makes for a good story and I admit I always wondered how that would feel. This is the closest I will ever come as I saw Phillip and Michael and all the other veterans who made this memorable trip being embraced and welcomed home by their families.

For all this to have occurred in one day is fantastic, to have made the trip with Native American veterans Phillip and Michael Coon will be an experience I will never forget.

Many thanks to the Oklahoma Honor Flights Program for making this all possible.

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTER
&
VETERAN AFFAIRS SERVICES OFFICE

IN COLLABORATION WITH
SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN

PRESENTS

NATIVE WORDS, NATIVE WARRIORS

NOVEMBER 11, 2011 – FEBRUARY 29, 2012

"During World War I and World War II, hundreds of American Indians joined the United States armed forces and used words from their traditional languages as weapons…America's enemies never deciphered the coded messages they sent."

Smithsonian Institution

EXHIBITION AT MUSCOGEE VETERANS BUILDING
For more information contact
Muscogee Tourism & Recreation: 918-732-7992

Developed by the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service with generous support from Elizabeth Hunter Solomon, the Smithsonian Women's Committee, and the AMB Foundation.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT FILED
2009 DEC -4 P 2:50

IN THE MATTER OF THE GUARDIANSHIP OF I.M.M.
Minor child.
Case No. GD-2009-12
Judge Patrick Moore

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR APPOINEMENT OF GUARDIAN OF MINOR CHILD CHILDREN

TO: JAMIE MARSHALL

On the 4 day of Dec 2009, a Petition was filed in this Court for the Appointment of Guardian of the minor child, I.M.M., a minor child born out of wedlock on February 24, 2004, to Jamie Marshall, so that a guardian can be appointed for said minor child. Said Petition is set for hearing on the 28th day of January 2010 at the hour of 10:00 o'clock AM/PM before the Honorable Judge Patrick E. Moore in District Court in and for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, located at Highway 75 and Loop 56, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447.

This action alleges that the Petitioner is entitled to guardianship over the minor child based on abandonment. You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the Petitioner and appear at the above scheduled hearing or the allegations contained in the *Petition* will be taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of Petitioner as prayed for in her *Petition*.

Signed and dated this 4 day of Dec 2009.

JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

Prepared by:

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT FILED
2009 DEC -2 P 1:5

In re the Paternity of M. A. M.:
LORI ANN LONG, Petitioner,
and
RICARDO MARTINEZ RIVERA, Respondent.
Case No. CV-2009-200
Judge: Patrick E. Moore

SERVICE OF SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Ricardo Martinez Rivera

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for paternity in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. CV 2009-200, styled In re the Paternity of M.A.M: Lori Ann Long, Petitioner vs. Ricardo Martinez Rivera, Respondent. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to an *Order Establishing Paternity* naming you as the natural father of a minor child and also asking for legal custody of the minor child and for child support to be calculated according to Tribal Code and State Law.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner and appear at the hearing scheduled for the 14th day of January, 2010 at 10:00 A.m. at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Mould Building, Hwy 75 and 56 Loop, Okmulgee, OK or the allegations contained in the *Petition* will be taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in her *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 2nd day of December, 2009.

Nancy Jukich, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District
By: Debbie King (Deputy)

(SEAL)
Approved:
Courtney L. Eagan-Smith, MCN#543
Shannon L. Prescott, MCN#165
Kacie R. Cresswell, MCN#568
Courtney L. Eagan-Smith, MCN#543
MCN Citizen Legal Services
114 North Grand, North Lobby
Okmulgee, OK 74447
Attorneys for Petitioner

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT FILED
2009 DEC -4 P 2:50

IN THE MATTER OF THE GUARDIANSHIP OF I.M.M.
Minor child.
Case No. GD-2009-12
Judge Patrick Moore

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR APPOINEMENT OF GUARDIAN OF MINOR CHILD CHILDREN

TO: PAUL FAXON

On the 4 day of Dec 2009, a Petition was filed in this Court for the Appointment of Guardian of the minor child, I.M.M., a minor child born out of wedlock on February 24, 2004, to Paul Faxon, so that a guardian can be appointed for said minor child. Said Petition is set for hearing on the 28th day of January 2010 at the hour of 10:00 o'clock AM/PM before the Honorable Judge Patrick E. Moore in District Court in and for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, located at Highway 75 and Loop 56, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447.

This action alleges that the Petitioner is entitled to guardianship over the minor child based on abandonment. You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the Petitioner and appear at the above scheduled hearing or the allegations contained in the *Petition* will be taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of Petitioner as prayed for in her *Petition*.

Signed and dated this 4 day of Dec 2009.

JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

Prepared by:

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF THE GUARDIANSHIP OF THE PERSON AND THE ESTATE OF JADEN LEE GREEN
Judge Patrick E. Moore
Case No: GD 2009-52

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN OF MINOR CHILD

TO: UNKNOWN FATHER

On the 9 day of December 2009, a Petition was filed in this Court for the Appointment of Guardian of the minor child, J.L.G., a minor child born out of wedlock in Oklahoma, on August 24, 2006, to Brittany Nicole Green, so that a guardian can be appointed for said minor child. Said Petition is set for hearing on ~~the~~ Febeury 18th day of ~~200~~2010 at the hour of 10:00 O'clock AM/PM before the Honorable Judge Patrick E. Moore in District Court in and for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, located at Highway 75 and Loop 56, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447.

This action alleges that the Petitioner is entitled to guardianship over the minor child based on neglect. You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the Petitioners and appear at the above scheduled hearing or the allegations contained in the *Petition* will be taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of Petitioners as prayed for in their *Petition*.

Signed and dated this 9 day of December 2009.

JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

District Court filings for November 2011

The District Court filings from Nov. 1, 2011 through Nov. 31, 2011 are as follows:

Traffic:

MCN v. Crashawn Ray Crook	Disorderly Conduct
MCN v. Clyde Crook `	Disorderly Conduct

Marriage Liscense:

Shelby Flowers and Janice Tiger	Marriage License

District Court filings for December 2011

The District Court filings from Dec. 1, 2011 through Dec. 31, 2011 are as follows:

Civil:

Muskogee Regional Medical Center, LLC d/b/a Muskogee Regional Medical Center v. Teresa Thompson	Foreign Judgment
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Housing Division (Successor in Interest to the Housing Authority of the Creek Nation of Oklahoma) v. Angela Searcy and Toby Sheets	Complaint
Randy Roughface	Name Change
Royal Finance v. Ashley Thierry	Small Claims
Kae Lange v. Muscogee (Creek) Nation d/b/a River Spirit Casino	Petition
Royal Finance v. Robert Yargee	Small Claims
Creditors Recovery Corp., v. Lyndell & Ishanta Shoals	Foreign Judgment
Liberty Finance v. George Bell	Small Claims
Equinox Collection Service v. Brenda Gann	Petition for Indebtedness
Royal Finance v. Jensie Jimboy	Small Claims
Q.C. Financial Services Inc., d/b/a National Quik Cash v. Jeremiah Hobia Muscogee (Creek) Nation Travel Plaza, and Hudson In Re: Appeal from the Insurance Co., v. Donna Slay of the Arbitrator of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation	Order
Robert Sanders v. Chris Hodge aka Chris Hodges and Carrie Hodge aka Carrie Hodges	Foreign Judgment
Royal Finance v. Candice Strianese	Small Claims

Divorce:

Walter Pittman v. Laura Pittman	Divorce
Danielle Donley v. James Donley	Divorce
Crystal Walker v. Harold Walker	Divorce
Maria Hill v. Billy Hill	Divorce
Narsisa Gourd v. James Gourd	Divorce
Sherrie Tiger v. Amon Tiger	Divorce
Odessa Gann v. Roy Dale Wynn	Divorce
Katherine Nickels v. Joshua Stubbs	Divorce
Nelson Harjo v. Susan Harjo	Divorce

Family Domestic:

OCSE ex. rel., Stephanie Shell v. Eco Marshall	Child Support
OCSE ex. rel., Connie Wolf v. Charles Harjo	Child Support
OCSE ex. rel., Betty Davis v. Amanda Shrabel	Child Support
OCSE ex. rel., Alicia Clark v. Corey Watson	Child Support
OCSE ex. rel., Melinda Horton v. Thomas Horton	Child Support
OCSE ex. rel., Robyn Long v. Neil Fisher	Child Support
OCSE, ex rel., Patricia Thornhill v. Edgas Laughlin	Child Support
OCSE, ex rel., Paula Hickman v. Clayton Kamm	Child Support
OCSE, ex rel., Joy Pierce v. Danuel Warrior	Child Support
OCSE, ex rel., Misty Keller v. Edgar Laughlin	Child Support

Criminal Felony:

MCN v. Alex Harjo	Ct. 1: Possession of CDS Ct. 2: Possession of Illegal Drug Paraphernalia
MCN v. Hoovey Perez Jr.	Ct. 1: Possession of Firearm Ct. 2: Obstruction of Justice

2012 TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS & PREVENTION POSTER CONTEST

POSTER THEME: **"Qualities of a Healthy Relationship", may focus on one or more qualities of healthy relationships. Go to www.cdc.gov/chooserespect, click Healthy vs Unhealthy Relationships for qualities of a healthy relationship.**

ELIGIBILITY: Muscogee (Creek) Nation youth ages 12-18.

(Must be enrolled member of Muscogee (Creek) Nation.)

PRIZES: Grand Prize: $200.00 2 Runners Up: $100.00 each

JUDGING CRITERIA: **Judging** will be based on **originality, creativity, and development and reflection of the theme**. As a resource, visit **www.breakthecycle.org and www.cdc.gov/chooserespect.org**.

RULES:

1. Submitted artwork/poster should be no larger than 24x36 inches. **Use vertical orientation**. Do not put your name on the front of the poster.
2. **Original, freehand artwork** in any medium, color or black and white. Keep in mind pencils appear light. **Computer graphics and copyrighted figures NOT accepted. Nothing may be glued, stapled or attached to the artwork. No cut and paste**. NO SPELLING ERRORS.
3. Only one entry per person, and each entry must be the work of only one student.
4. All entries become the property of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program. We reserve the right to use the poster for the purpose of dating violence education and promotion. A picture of the winning student may appear in the media and/or newspaper/website/etc.
5. Posters may not be folded or rolled. They must be mailed flat and protected by cardboard. Packages must be labeled "Do Not Bend" on both sides. Mail posters to: **Muscogee (Creek) Nation Children & Family Services P.O. Box 580 Okmulgee, OK 74447** or contact Mitzi Pope at (918) 732-7892 if you choose to deliver them.
6. All **entries must be received by January 31, 2012**. Judging will take place in February, and the winners will be notified during the month of February as well. The winning poster will appear in the Muscogee Nation Newspaper.

The Mortgage Down Payment and Closing Cost Program

The Mortgage Down Payment and Closing Cost Program helps Native Americans become first time homeowners by providing financial assistance for acquiring a home mortgage.

To pre-qualify for the program, the applicant must meet the following requirements.

- Preference will be given to Creek Citizens.
- Be a first time home buyer or not have owned a home within five years of application.
- Live within the State of Oklahoma.
- Must not be an existing or former Mutual Help participant or NAHASDA Homebuyer/Lease with Option to Purchase regardless of Housing Service Area.
- Have an annual family income which does not exceed 80% of the national Median income as published by HUD.
- Be 18 years or older.
- Provide all requested information, which includes Citizenship cards for preference purposes, Social Security cards and employment verification for each working family member.
- Sign all required forms including the Consent for Disclosure of Information.
- Meet all credit check and financial obligations for loan assistance from an approved and certified financial lender.

FOR A PRE-APPLICATION CONTACT LADONNA NORTHCROSS AT 918-549-2554 OR VISIT THE WEBSITE AT www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov

The Mortgage Down Payment Assistance program Pre-Approval does not guarantee a Mortgage Loan from an Outside Lender.

CREEK NATION
Casino
MUSCOGEE
JANUARY 27TH&28TH
DOUBLE GIVEAWAYS
CASH PRIZES AND A TRUCK MUST GO EACH NIGHT!
BUCKIN' TRUCKIN' BULLNANZA
$10 Match Play
Noon - 10PM
Every Diamond Club participant will receive a $10 Match Play.
Hot Seat Prize Drawings
1:30PM - 9:30PM
We will have five (5) Hot Seat Drawings at the Main Casino and Travel Plaza every 1/2 hour beginning at 1:30PM and ending at 9:30PM. Each Hot Seat winner will select a prize from the prize wall.
Prizes include: $50 Freeplays, $75 Freeplays, $100 Freeplays, or a chance at a Grand Prize Qualifier.
Sierra Truck Drawing
10PM
Grand Prize Qualifiers will select a prize from the prize wall. Prizes include cash prizes up to $1,000, and a 2012 GMC Sierra Truck.
3420 W. PEAK BLVD. MUSKOGEE OK 74401
918.683.1825 creeknationcasino.net
Look for us on facebook and twitter under 'LUCK STRIKES HERE'
LUCKSTRIKESHERE!

Muscogee Nation News

Jan. 24, 2012
Vol. 42, Issue 2

Official Semi-Monthly Publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Tiger responds to Kialegee casino

River Spirit Casino in Tulsa to expand with hotel

MNN/*Gary Fife*

Pictured above are Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger (left) and National Council Speaker Sam Alexander at a press conference Monday, Jan. 16, 2012 at the Tribal Construction Building located on the capitol complex.

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — Calling it a "clarification" to the publicity surrounding the planned development of a casino by the Kialegee Tribal Town, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger announced in a press conference Jan. 16 that, "It was a complicated issue of tribal jurisdiction over a Muscogee (Creek) allotment and the procedures to obtain gaming on that allotment while maintaining a good working relationship with our Oklahoma neighbors."

Saying that he was sensitive to the plight of tribal towns and their desire for economic development, Tiger cautioned, "However, the cure to the problem is not accomplished by allowing a casino to be built in Broken Arrow that is under the jurisdiction and authority of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation without the consent of this nation and without following all proper procedures that would allow for gaming on that site."

Neither the National Indian Gaming Commission or the Bureau of Indian Affairs has rendered a formal opinion yet.

Tiger pointed out that the tribal Realty Trust Services had not received an application for a Bureau of Indian Affairs business lease, and tribal gaming commission had not given a written approval for a gaming license for the location. His personal position was that the land should not be used as a tribal casino without consent from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Tiger intends to consult with the National Council to determine how the nation will proceed.

The Kialegee application for a casino was first submitted to the National Indian Gaming Commission years ago, according to landowner Marcella Giles, as reported in the *Tulsa World*.

Since then, the the lands' legal status and the planned tribal casino have been in question. With outside investment, the tribal town has proceeded with land preparation, with the intent of building a temporary structure.

Community groups have formed to oppose the casino and the Broken Arrow School Board is on record with its opposition. The city council has requested the state attorney general for a determination on the legality of the casino.

In the press conference, Tiger said the only elected official to contact him has been Rep. Sullivan and that he provided the Congressman with a basic orientation on what he called, "Indian 101."

The MCN, Tiger added, is willing to work with the Kialegee Tribal Town on economic development for its community. Tiger has also met with Broken Arrow mayor Mike Lester. Both the town and the tribe are cooperating in examining the legal situation.

Tiger confirmed that there is an agreement in place for the River Spirit Casino in west Tulsa regarding any other casino projects, but would not elaborate. The Broken Arrow community has vocally opposed the casino and has the support of congressman John Sullivan and an inquiry by Sen. Tom Coburn.

According to Tiger, the Muscogee Nation is looking at ideas to expand the River Spring facility by adding a hotel, 'We have plans to expand what we have now at 81st and Riverside. Those plans won't be delayed, they will continue on."

State of the Nation Address set for Jan. 28

Media Release
MCN Public Relations

OKMULGEE — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger will deliver his first State of the Nation address Saturday, Jan. 28, 2012.

This event is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 28, 2012 as an agenda item to the National Council's Quarterly Session agenda.

In order to accommodate the anticipated crowd in attendance, the session will be held at the Multipurpose Building on the Claude A. Cox Omniplex located in Okmulgee.

Tiger will formally address the legislative body, the Muscogee (Creek) National Council and provide information on the current state of tribal affairs, including progress made by the tribe since the last update in 2011.

Tiger will further outline his goals and objectives for the initial phases of his administration as well as sharing his long term plans for the future.

The event is ordained in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Constitution as an annual function of the tribe's chief executive.

Tiger was elected in November 2011 and sworn into office Jan. 7, 2012 before a crowd of thousands at the MCN Multipurpose Building in Okmulgee, Okla.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is the fourth largest tribal nation in the United States with jurisdiction in Eastern and East Central Oklahoma and an enrolled membership of over 72,000.

For more information on the event, please contact Edwin Marshall, Public Relations Coordinator at (918) 732-7617 or email at emarshall@muscogeenation-nsn.org

2012 MCN Challenge Bowl set for Feb.

Media Release
MCN Challenge Bowl Committee

OKMULGEE — Dates, times and location for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's 2012 Challenge Bowl were announced this week.

The annual competition will be held at Trinity Baptist Church located at 830 W. Ozark Street in Morris, Okla., where Native student teams representing public schools, chartered communities and tribal towns will test their knowledge of all things Muscogee (Creek).

The Challenge Bowl features subjects ranging from current events, geography, language, history, government to tradition/culture. The 2012 dates for the competition are:

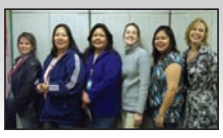
High School – Feb. 9, 2012
Middle School – Feb. 16, 2012
Elementary – Feb. 23, 2012

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger stated, "The Muscogee Nation sets a standard of information at the highest level using our culture, language and government as the guidepost to teach our children. We believe that teaching these standards to our children will form the foundation for their future. We are planting the 'Long-Rooted Grass' within our children so that whatever comes up against them, the roots of their people will hold them fast and steady."

For more information, contact Raven Bruner at (918) 732-7841 or go to www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov and click on the Challenge Bowl link

MNN 2 - EXECUTIVE
Beavers named 'inspiring couple'

MNN 4 - LOCAL NEWS
MCN staff recognized as Child Development Associates



MNN 5 - HISTORY
And Still the Waters Run: *Ms. Virginia*

MNN 6 - FEATURE
Langan retires after half-century

MNN 7 - EDUCATION
JOM Career Day offers career introductions

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PERMIT NO 49
STIGLER, OK 74462

Muscogee Nation News
STAFF

Manager - Gerald Wofford
Editor - Rebecca Landsberry
Editorial Assistant - Gary Fife

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Editorial statements appearing in ***The Muscogee Nation News***, guest columns and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of ***The Muscogee Nation News***, its advisors nor the tribal administration. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Please contact our office for deadline of submissions to be considered for inclusion. ***The Muscogee Nation News*** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate ***The Muscogee Nation News*** in any regard.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed from Stigler, Okla., to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

TO CHANGE OR SUBMIT AN ADDRESS, PLEASE CALL (918) 732-7720 or send e-mail to: wmurphy@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

Beavers named 'inspiring couple'

Former Principal Chief and wife set example

Media Release
KOTV News Channel 6

TULSA — R. Perry and Mariam Beaver were recently nominated for the most inspiring couple award. This contest was hosted through News on 6 by the Oklahoma Marriage Initiative. Nominations were received and semi-finalists were selected.

They need your help to win: go to http://www.newson6.com/Global/category.asp?c=226081 and vote for Perry and Mariam Beaver.

Perry and Mariam met when she was in nursing school and he had just returned from playing with the Green Bay Packers. They married in 1968 and have supported one another for over 43 years. Following a successful collegiate career and being coached by the legendary Vince Lombardi, Perry took his football moves and turned them into coaching gold by building the Jenks High School football team into a dominant leader in their division. Working as a nurse, Mariam never missed a game and together they supported young athletes and students for over 30 years. Perry was named to Native American Hall of Fame and the Oklahoma Coaches Hall of Fame.

Upon retiring from coaching in 1991, Perry was elected as the Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation which he faithfully served for eight years. After suffering a stroke, Mariam became his private nurse. Even though Perry now suffers from diabetes and needs regular kidney dialyses, as grandparents, they help with the grandkids. They never miss birthdays or special event…they are inspiring for the support they provide each other and their family.

Perry and Mariam's Advice for new couples:

"Respect one another and always accept your spouse for who they are; never try to change them."

The winning inspiring couple will be recognized at *Forever. For Real.* Feb. 4, 2012 at the Tulsa Convention Center; they will also receive a two-night stay at Lago Vista Bed and Breakfast. Five semi-finalists will receive a $100 gift card to Restaurant Equipment and Supply co.

The Oklahoma Marriage Initiative (OMI) has existed since 1999 and has become a national program model. State and national leaders have watched the broad-based, innovative design and statewide service delivery strategies become implemented and refined over the past several years. The Initiative was developed and gained momentum under former Governor Frank Keating and continues to grow and prosper, with new plans and visions on the horizon for the coming years.

Letters to the editor

Citizen thanks administration for transportation

OKMULGEE — Hello, this note is to thank Chief Ellis for the use of the bus for our trip to Chickasaw Nation.

Thank you, Jackson Barnett for a wonderful time and thanks to our bus driver, Cindie, and our escort, Butch, for the guiding you gave us to get to our destination; it was a wonderful trip!

The elders appreciate the wonderful day.

— Esther Harley Grona
Okmulgee Indian Community

District Court filings for December 2011

The District Court filings from Dec. 1, 2011 through Dec. 31, 2011 are as follows:

Criminal Misdemeanor:	
MCN v. Richard Chase	Ct. 1: Disorderly Conduct
	Ct. 2: Obstructing an Officer in the Performance of Duties
MCN v. Michelle Billie	Ct. 1: Disorderly Conduct
MCN v. Cheryl Perez	Ct. 1: Obstruction of Justice
MCN v. Della Perez	Ct. 1: Obstruction of Justice
MCN v. Hoovey Perez Sr.	Ct. 1: Obstruction of Justice
MCN v. Jimmy Roller	Ct. 1: Public Intoxication
Traffic:	
MCN v. Meri Piquet	DUS
MCN v. Meri Piquet	Expired Tag
MCN v. Linda West	No Insurance
MCN v. Linda West	Duties in Event of Accident

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE CREEK NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION HOUSING DIVISION (successor in interest to THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CREEK NATION OF OKLAHOMA),	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
v.	)	**Case No. CV-2011-203**
ANGELA MARIE SEARCY and TOBY LYNN SHEETS,	)	
Defendant.	)	

SERVICE OF SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA TO:

ANGELA MARIE SEARCY and

TOBY LYNN SHEETS.

GREETINGS:

Take notice that you and each of you have been sued in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee Division, in the above entitled and numbered cause by the Plaintiff, and that you must answer the Complaint filed by Plaintiff in the office of the undersigned Court Clerk on or before the 2nd day of March, ~~2011~~ 2012, or judgment against you and a decree in Plaintiff's favor will be rendered accordingly.

You are ordered to appear at the Courtroom of the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee, OK, on the 2nd day of February, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. for a forcible entry and detainer hearing and to remain subject to the call of the court until discharged.

Dated this 28th day of December, 2011.

Court Clerk
By: Shalon Mcelwaine, Deputy

INGLISH & GAITHER, P.C.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
Henryetta, OK

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In re the marriage of:	)	
BARBARA JEAN TONEY,	)	
Petitioner,	)	
	)	Case No. DV-2012-04
vs.	)	
	)	Before the Honorable Gregory Big[illegible]
GREGORY VINCENT ROBERTS,	)	Judge of the District Court
Respondent.	)	

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Gregory Vincent Roberts

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for divorce in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. DV-2012-04, styled In re the Marriage of Barbara Jean Toney, Petitioner and Gregory Vincent Roberts, Respondent. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to a *Decree of Dissolution of Marriage* from you based on the grounds of incompatibility.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear at the hearing on the 13th day of April 2012 at 10 o'clock a.m. Failure to respond and/or attend will result in the allegations contained in the *Petition* being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in his *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 17th day of January, 2012.

Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District

By: Shalon Mcelwaine
(Deputy)

(SEAL)

CREEK NATION COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Reintegration Program Coat Drive

HENRYETTA — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration program is still taking donations of new or gently used coats. Donations can be dropped off at the MCN Reintegration program or arrangements can be made to have them picked up.

For more information, please contact Becky Billingsly at (800) 259-1059 or (918) 652-2676.

Summer Youth 2012

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Summer Youth Employment Program is accepting applications for the upcoming year.

The deadline for submitting applications is March 16, 2012 at the Human Development Employment and Training Office.

For more information, please contact 918-732-7775 or 7776. You may also call 1-800-482-1979 ext. 7775 or 7776. No fax applications will be accepted. Applicants must be a member of a federally recognized tribe and between the ages of 16 and 21.

Rekindle the Flame Revival

GRAYSON — Revival hosted by Fred Lowe at the New Covenant Tabernacle on Hwy 266, between Morris and Dewar, Friday Feb. 3 - 4.

Friday services begin at 7 p.m., and Saturday services begin at 2 p.m. Speakers are Robert Lay, Redman Wolf Sr., Redman Wolf, Jr., and Matt Haynes. Possible bands will be performing. Supper will be served after the 2 p.m., service Saturday. Prayer requests are welcome.

For more information, contact Fred Lowe at (918)-843-2265 or Robert Lay, Jr., (918) 652-4350.

Deer Memorial Service

HOLDENVILLE — Memorial service for Lyle K. Deer is scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 29, 2012. The services will be held at 4 p.m., at Salt Creek United Methodist Church, in Holdenville, weather permitting.

Message to be delivered by Rev. Alvin Deer.

Fourth Annual NWS Storm-Spotter Training

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Emergency Management, Okmulgee County Emergency Management and the City of Okmulgee Emergency Management are sponsoring the Storm-Spotter Training, to be presented by the National Weather Service-Tulsa office on Monday, Jan. 30, 2012 at 6:30 p.m., at the MCN Complex in the Mound Building.

Everyone is invited to attend. CLEET hours will be provided.

For more information, contact James Nichols at (918)-732-7891 or email at jnichols@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

OKMULGEE — February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.

The MCN Family Violence Prevention program is asking Muscogee teens to take the pledge to always treat their dating partners with respect.

Teens should post the pledge to their Facebook or Twitter page, email the pledge to coworkers and text the pledge to friends.

"Break The Silence. Be Part of the Solution."

For more information, or to request a presentation about dating violence, please contact Mitzi Pope, Youth Advocate with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program at 1-800-521-5432.

Spaghetti Benefit Dinner

TULSA — The Tulsa Indian Club Princess Committee is hosting a Spaghetti Benefit Dinner Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2012.

The dinner will take place from 6 -9 p.m. at the Mayo Building, located at 420 S. Main St., in Tulsa.

The $6-a-plate dinner includes spaghetti, bread, salad, dessert and drink. Donations are also accepted. Proceeds will benefit the Tulsa Indian Club Princess Committee.

Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative hosts herb class

OKMULGEE — Herb grower Richard Belcher will teach an evening class on growing herbs beginning at 6 p.m., Tue., Jan. 31 at Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative, located at 100 E. 7th, Suite 101.

Belcher, has been growing herbs for four years, will offer information on growing herbs which are commonly used in the kitchen, such as rosemary, thyme, parsley, and dill.

Belcher is the manager of the Community Food Project (CFP) in McIntosh County and part of his work includes overseeing Eufaula Indian Garden.

Please RSVP for the herb training session by calling Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative at (918) 756-5915 or (918) 759-0817 or email sberryhill@mvskokefood.org

Sexual Assault Awareness Walk

OKMULGEE — "Walk a Mile In Her Shoes" is the theme for the 2012 Sexual Assault Awareness Walk, set for April 11, 2012.

The event will begin at 1 p.m. at the MCN Mound building. It is sponsored by the MCN Family Violence Prevention Program.

For more information, contact Tina Qualls at (918)-813-6900 or email tqualls@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

MWLI meeting set for Jan. 28

OKMULGEE — The Mvskoke Women's Leadership Initiative (MWLI) will meet Saturday, Jan. 28 at the College of the Muscogee Nation, located at 1200 Hwy. Loop 56 in Okmulgee from 1-4 p.m., for the first meeting of 2012.

MWLI was established in March 2009 to bring Mvskoke women of all ages together to fellowship and celebrate the richness of our Mvskoke culture.

The meeting will cover goals, organization and plans for the future including preparation for the annual Leadership Awards event to be held in March.

Nominations are now being accepted for the Awards which recognize and honor the strength and leadership of Mvskoke women. Anyone may submit a nomination and the nominee must be an enrolled member of the MCN.

For nomination forms, contact Cherrah Ridge at (918)-520-9161, fax (918)-445-4947 or email cherrahridge@gmail.com. The awards dinner will be Mar. 26, with the location to be announced.

Southern Regional Office February Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 National Council 9am-4pm Legal Services (appointment only) Citizenship 10am-3pm	2 Social Services 9am-11am	3	4
5	6 Employment & Training 8am-12pm Okmulgee 1pm-5pm	7 Tax Commission 9am-3pm Lunch 11am-11:30am	8 National Council 9am-4pm	9	10 WIC@Clinic 9am-4pm	11
12	13 Employment & Training 8am-12pm Okmulgee 1pm-5pm	14 Tax Commission 9am-3pm Lunch 11am-11:30am	15 National Council 9am-4pm Legal Services 9am-3pm	16	17	18
19	20 Employment & Training 8am-12pm Okmulgee 1pm-5pm	21 Tax Commission 9am-3pm Lunch 11am-11:30am	22 National Council 9am-4pm	23	24 WIC@Clinic 9am-4pm	25
26	27 Employment & Training 8am-12pm Okmulgee 1pm-5pm	28 Tax Commission 9am-3pm Lunch 11am-11:30am	29 National Council 9am-4pm	-Employment & Training here daily 8am-5pm (405) 452-1155 -Food Distribution open daily (405) 452-1175 -Housing here daily 8am-5pm (405) 452-1100/1106 -Reintegration (appointment only) 1-800-259-1059 -WIC (405) 452-1300		

Birthdays, Births & Special Announcements!

Birthday:

Roll Number:_____
Phone Number: (___)_____
Name: _____
Address:_____
Date of Birth: _____
Theme of the party:_____
Parents: _____
Siblings: _____
Maternal and Paternal grandparents:
_____
Maternal and Paternal great grandparents:
_____
School: _____
Clan: _____
Tribal Town:_____

Birth:

Roll Number:_____
Phone Number: (___)_____
Name: _____
Address:_____
Date of Birth: _____
Name of Hospital: _____
Weight: _____ pounds _____ ounces_____ inches
Parents: _____
Siblings: _____
Maternal and Paternal grandparents:
_____
Maternal and Paternal great grandparents:
_____
Clan: _____
Tribal Town:_____

Announcements:

Roll Number:_____
Phone Number: (___)_____
Name: _____
Address:_____
Parents: _____
Siblings: _____
Maternal and Paternal grandparents:
_____
Maternal and Paternal great grandparents:
_____
Clan: _____
Tribal Town:_____
Please attach announcement

PLEASE SEND PHOTO(S) To: MCN Communications Dept. • P.O. Box 580 • Okmulgee, OK 74447

MCN Child Care staff recognized as Child Development Associates

MCN Submission/*Office of Child Care*

Pictured left to right are: Misty Ray, Okmulgee CDC, Carol Frye, Okmulgee CDC, Keselar Mitchell, Tulsa CDC, Amy Hightower, Sapulpa CDC, Sarah Chisholm, Sapulpa CDC, and Cheryl Bush, Supervisor at the Sapulpa CDC.

Media Release
MCN Office of Child Care

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Child Care wants to congratulate and announce that the following Child Development Center staff has been awarded a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential in recognition of outstanding work with young children. The Council for Professional Recognition in Washington DC awards credentials to early childhood educators who demonstrate the ability to constructively work with young children in group settings. The CDA is a nationally recognized credential for excellence in Early Childhood Education. The staff attended 120 hours of classroom studies and was evaluated while working in the classroom, and was given a written and oral test by a representative appointed by the Council.

Checotah students attend "A Christmas Carol" at Tulsa PAC

Submission/*Tia Shelby*

Checotah Middle School's Smarty Cats Book Club & Reading class traveled to Tulsa Performing Arts Center (PAC) to watch a live performance of A Christmas Carol in Dec. The students read the timeless story over the past month and Creek Nation Casino of Checotah donated $500 to help purchase tickets for 40 students to see and enjoy this Christmas classic. They all had a great time.

2012 TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS & PREVENTION POSTER CONTEST

POSTER THEME: **"Qualities of a Healthy Relationship", may focus on one or more qualities of healthy relationships. Go to www.cdc.gov/chooserespect, click Healthy vs Unhealthy Relationships for qualities of a healthy relationship.**

ELIGIBILITY: Muscogee (Creek) Nation youth ages 12-18.

(Must be enrolled member of Muscogee (Creek) Nation.)

PRIZES: Grand Prize: $200.00 2 Runners Up: $100.00 each

JUDGING CRITERIA: **Judging** will be based on **originality, creativity, and development and reflection of the theme**. As a resource, visit **www.breakthecycle.org and www.cdc.gov/chooserespect.org**.

RULES:

1. Submitted artwork/poster should be no larger than 24x36 inches. **Use vertical orientation**. Do not put your name on the front of the poster.
2. **Original, freehand artwork** in any medium, color or black and white. Keep in mind pencils appear light. **Computer graphics and copyrighted figures NOT accepted. Nothing may be glued, stapled or attached to the artwork. No cut and paste**. NO SPELLING ERRORS.
3. Only one entry per person, and each entry must be the work of only one student.
4. All entries become the property of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program. We reserve the right to use the poster for the purpose of dating violence education and promotion. A picture of the winning student may appear in the media and/or newspaper/website/etc.
5. Posters may not be folded or rolled. They must be mailed flat and protected by cardboard. Packages must be labeled "Do Not Bend" on both sides. Mail posters to: **Muscogee (Creek) Nation Children & Family Services P.O. Box 580 Okmulgee, OK 74447** or contact Mitzi Pope at (918) 732-7892 if you choose to deliver them.
6. All **entries must be received by January 31, 2012**. Judging will take place in February, and the winners will be notified during the month of February as well. The winning poster will appear in the Muscogee Nation Newspaper.

Students invited to register for language fair

Media Release
Sam Noble Museum

NORMAN—Students of Native American languages from preschool to high school age are encouraged to enter the 10th annual Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair, scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, April 2 and 3, at the Sam Noble Museum in Norman. Participants in grades pre-K through 12 will demonstrate their language skills as groups or individuals in the spoken language and language in song categories.

Other competition categories include poster art and book categories, open to grades three through 12; language with PowerPoint presentation and film/video categories, both open to sixth- through 12th-graders; a language advocacy essay category, open to grades nine through 12; and a language masters performance category for grades nine through 12, designed to showcase the language skills of students who have grown up speaking a Native American language. A new category for 2012 is poetry writing and performance; it is open to all ages. Registration deadline is March 12.

The competition draws more than 600 participants from across Oklahoma as well as neighboring states competing in as many as 27 Native American languages. Pre-K through fifth-grade competitions will take place on Monday, April 2; sixth- through 12th-grade competitions are set for Tuesday, April 3. The top three award-winners in each age group and category will receive a trophy that can be displayed at their school or tribal center. Every student who participates will receive a medallion and Language Fair T-shirt. For the 10th anniversary, every student also will receive a 2012 calendar with poster art for the last 10 years in addition to other language prizes. Fair participants will be honored at the state capitol on Monday, April 9, and all students and programs are invited to attend.

A panel of elders and teachers from several different tribes will judge the spoken language and language in song competitions. Native artists will judge the posters based on creativity and use of this year's theme, "Language in My Heart." In addition, Native authors will judge the book and poetry competitions.

To register and for additional information, visit http://nal.snomnh.ou.edu/onaylf. Deadline for registration is Monday, March 12. PowerPoint presentations, films, books, poetry, and poster entries must be received by March 16. No late entries will be accepted.

To have forms sent by mail, or for additional information, participants may contact the museum's Native American Languages department at (405) 325-7588 or by email at ONAYLF@snomnh.ou.edu. The 2011 Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair is made possible, in part, by the Boeing Company and the Cyril Foundation.

The Sam Noble Museum is located on the University of Oklahoma Norman campus at Timberdell Road and Chautauqua Avenue. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is $5 for adults, $4 for seniors 65 and up, and $3 for youth ages 6 to 17. Children ages 5 and under are free. Discounts are available for military personnel and their immediate families. There is no additional admission fee to see Warrior Spirits.

For more information about the museum, call (405) 325-4712, or visit the museum's website at www.snomnh.ou.edu.

The Mortgage Down Payment and Closing Cost Program

The Mortgage Down Payment and Closing Cost Program helps Native Americans become first time homeowners by providing financial assistance for acquiring a home mortgage.

To pre-qualify for the program, the applicant must meet the following requirements.

- Preference will be given to Creek Citizens.
- Be a first time home buyer or not have owned a home within five years of application.
- Live within the State of Oklahoma.
- Must not be an existing or former Mutual Help participant or NAHASDA Homebuyer/Lease with Option to Purchase regardless of Housing Service Area.
- Have an annual family income which does not exceed 80% of the national Median income as published by HUD.
- Be 18 years or older.
- Provide all requested information, which includes Citizenship cards for preference purposes, Social Security cards and employment verification for each working family member.
- Sign all required forms including the Consent for Disclosure of Information.
- Meet all credit check and financial obligations for loan assistance from an approved and certified financial lender.

FOR A PRE-APPLICATION CONTACT LADONNA NORTHCROSS AT 918-549-2554 OR VISIT THE WEBSITE AT www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov

The Mortgage Down Payment Assistance program Pre-Approval does not guarantee a Mortgage Loan from an Outside Lender.

And Still the Waters Run: *Ms. Virginia*

George Windes
CMCA Historian

YORBA LINDA, Calif., — One day when a celestial encyclopedia is written on Muscogee Creek people, a special space will be reserved for Ms. Virginia Thomas. I can't say for sure, but I suspect a testimonial concerning Ms. Thomas will read something like this:

A high official of the Johnson O'Malley Program (which assists Indian children from three years old through grade 12) will say of Ms. Thomas and her longtime leadership of the national JOM organization:

"A very dynamic lady, but also very tiring: she wanted everything done in a minute! She had lots of natural charisma, was well-spoken and really cared about Native American youth. She'd run circles around Natives half her age, even out wrestle them if need be. I've never known anyone quite like her."

There is but little space to dwell upon the family and childhood of Virginia Thomas. Suffice to say Virginia was born in California to Muscogee Creek citizens Johnson and Lillian Thomas, their final girl child.

She grew up in the loving home and environment of one of the noblest of Creek families, blessed with intelligence, exposed to Biblical principles, and having considerable musical ability. Important also was the wisdom of her mother Lily. One of her many familial sayings, "Remember, a little kindness goes a long, long way."

After graduating high school Ms. Virginia headed for California State University in San Diego to get her BA. Said pole hurdled, she accepted a teaching position on the remote Pala Indian Reservation teaching indigenous children. Before she could begin teaching it was necessary to hose out the old schoolhouse her impoverished students would occupy.

She soon was a legend; complete with her Volkswagon bus often used in transporting Native youth to see a Calif., they had only previously heard about. The ocean beaches were a favorite destination.

Eventually Virginia's career would take her to the "North to the Future" state, Alaska. She would be involved with and chair the Alaska Native Education Council (ANEC). Thus a "microburst" of conferences, student action plans, study groups, information networks, and JOM assignments would occupy all her time.

There were also ties to the Alaska State Department of Education. She left Alaska for Okmulgee in 2000.

In Okmulgee, Virginia is manager of the Johnson O'Malley Program, for the tribe and as a national venue. As such, she is responsible for the JOM school programs, the MCN Scholarship Pageant and the JOM budget. The linked JOM applications, enrollment forms, academic incentives and important annual reports also fall under her umbrella.

But more importantly, Virginia found family members in Okla. Her care giving for Aunt Nora Nelson and Aunt Katie Smith will always be acknowledge by her grateful family.

She became their protector, their voice, their advocate, and they loved her for it. It was probably during this time Virginia's famed Christmas letters began to arrive encouraging all of her kin. They continue today, a blessing in stories and remembrances of Christmas past.

One event very close to Virginia has been her leadership over the Miss/Jr. Miss Muscogee Nation Scholarship Pageant, which is held annually in Henryetta.

The skills, talents and beauty of the young Muscogee women is acknowledged and voted upon. The young winners represent the MCN at many varied events through the calendar year.

Virginia's supreme directional control is "sterling" in her commitment to the same.

Around the first of Feb., of this year, President Barack Obama re-appointed Virginia Thomas to NACIE, the National Advisory Council on Indian Education (which had 15 members). She was initially appointed by President George W. Bush, in April 2004.

NACIE members advise the Secretary of Education on issues such as funding, administration and the development of regulations and administrative policies tied to all Indian education programs. Virginia's excellent work on the JOM program, which services 47 school districts and 17,000 students, made her an excellent choice for the appointment. She has served JOM for 39 years, in a multitude of positions, while earning numerous awards.

The famed artist Van Gogh said once in a letter to a young friend, "I find it just as interesting to paint with words as with a brush."

I really agree with his heartfelt analogy, but find it difficult to put in words "the rainbow, the kaleidoscope" that is Virginia Thomas. For all the service you give, dear cousin… MVTO!

Windes has been an active member of the California Muscogee Creek Association for over a decade and is serving on the Board as historian. He may be reached at: georgewindes@gmail.com

MNN/*Archives*

Virginia Thomas, or Ms. Virginia (pictured above) as she is known throughout the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (center top) has served the Johnson O'Malley program for over 39 years and was appointed to the National Advisory Council on Indian Education by both the Bush and Obama Administrations. Pictured at left are her parents Johnson Bailey Thomas and Lillian Freeman Thomas and paternal grandmother, Sarah Tiger Thomas (below).

Emvponayv

Gary Fife
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE —The new leadership for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has been sworn in and has taken office. A new administration means new folks running things around the tribal complex. A lot of new faces have shown up in the tribal headquarters. There are some huge challenges facing those new directors and staff and those jobs won't be easy. Good luck and do a good job for the tribe.

Most everyone has heard of the big battle in Broken Arrow over the proposed casino by the Kialegee Tribal Town. The status of the land the casino would be built on, land leased to the Kialegee, is a big question. The Town King of the Kialegee Tribal Town hasn't spoken but issued a written statement calling the casino the "epitome of the Congressional vision for Indian economic development. This is one of the very reasons the Indian Gaming Act was enacted."

Is that project legal or not according to National Indian Gaming Commission? That federal body is reviewing whether the land is eligible for gambling and whether or not it could be a violation of federal law. The Kialegee legal guys say that the federal law is advisory, but that has got to be wrong, since that act governs all tribal gaming nationwide. So far, the only development has been to make everyone else mad at them. Not a very good start for an industry that depends on public support and patronage. To misquote a line from the movie 'Field of Dreams', "...build it and they may NOT come...."

We now have a Muscogee (Creek) Nation Hotline. The number to access is (Outside of the Complex) dial 918-549-Creek (2733); (Inside the Complex) dial Creek (2733). (Pretty nifty, huh?) The Hotline went into effect, Dec. 2, 2011. I was thinking of calling it and asking, "Quick! Where can I get some emergency fry bread?" but I suppose they have better things to do.

The national elections are coming up this fall. President Barack Obama presented a bunch of new initiatives at the White House Tribal Nations Conference in December. Those were met with a very positive response from assembled tribal leaders, so he probably will get some votes from many Native Americans for those announcements. We have yet to hear anything from the Republicans who are duking it out for their nomination. Most of Indian Country has been in the Democrats' camp in past years. But, there are a good number of Indians who are Republicans, too. Let's see how that shakes out.

Have you recovered from the holiday feasts yet? Let your belt out a notch or two? Don't feel too bad, I'm sure there are hundreds more just like you (us). Time to get on the treadmill and try to work some of those cookies and fudge off your middle. Come on, muffin tops, it's for your own good.

Happy 2012!

Langan retires after half-century

Muscogee woman serves 50 years in federal service

Gary Fife
MNN Reporter

STILLWATER — She began her employment with the federal government as a temporary worker in 1961.

She stayed with a federal career and five decades later, Muscogee citizen, Julia Langan, stepped down from her post as the Superintendent of the Pawnee Agency of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) on Jan 13, 2012.

Langan held that post for 24 years and was one of the first women to hold such a title at the BIA. Currently, for the southern plains agencies, all the superintendents are women.

Langan's Muscogee family is from the Thlopthlocco Tribal Town. She shared that she was raised on a farm outside Okemah where her family still resides.

MNN/*Gary Fife*

Julie Langan retired after over 50 years of service with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. She is pictured at left and above with Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief and long-time family friend George Tiger.

At her going away party in Stillwater, she talked about her 50 years of federal service. She had some fond memories of traveling and making acquaintances, "I've enjoyed it. I've been to a lot of places and I've met a lot of different people and if you've gone to Haskell, which I did and then you work for the BIA, if you don't know someone throughout the country, you know someone that knows someone throughout the country. It's been a beautiful experience. I've learned a lot, I've had fun, met some wonderful people. I've had a good career and got to do a lot of the things that normally you wouldn't get to do or see. I've got a lot of respect for the tribes that I've worked with."

In those five decades of working for the government agency, Langan remembers the economic changes for the tribal governments, "I have, particularly the tribes at the Pawnee agency. They didn't have very much and then, they got into the bingo business. A couple of the tribes are doing very well and they have built up their tribal headquarters. They have economic development programs going on and I've seen evolution come from not having very much to having a lot."

Langan saw a change in the way the government did business with tribes. The Indian Self Determination Act allowed the tribes to contract to perform those services themselves. The effect was to reduce BIA staff, Langan remembered, a big change in the attitude of the tribal governments, "I think, at first, they found it hard to believe that we could let go. I always tried to be honest, to let them know what I could and what I couldn't do."

For Langan, it's memories of the Indian people that she will cherish the most, "The people I've met, the tribes, the individual tribal members, their characters and the people I've worked with, those are things that I won't forget."

As a legacy, Langan is happy to see things going well at the Pawnee agencies, "I would like to see that continue to develop and become a dominant force to deal with in Oklahoma, and that's what I'm looking forward to seeing."

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTER
&
VETERAN AFFAIRS SERVICES OFFICE

IN COLLABORATION WITH
SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN

PRESENTS

NATIVE WORDS, NATIVE WARRIORS

NOVEMBER 11, 2011 – FEBRUARY 29, 2012

"During World War I and World War II, hundreds of American Indians joined the United States armed forces and used words from their traditional languages as weapons…America's enemies never deciphered the coded messages they sent."

Smithsonian Institution

EXHIBITION AT MUSCOGEE VETERANS BUILDING
For more information contact
Muscogee Tourism & Recreation: 918-732-7992

Developed by the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service with generous support from Elizabeth Hunter Solomon, the Smithsonian Women's Committee, and the AMB Foundation.

JOM Career Day offers career introductions

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — "We used to do it for high school, but they felt that it was a little bit too late. They wanted to do it earlier so we started targeting the middle school, so that they can find out what's available to them and maybe something they've never thought of before."

That was the idea for the Career Day sponsored by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Johnson-O'Malley educational support program, said Virginia Thomas, program manager. About 450 students from schools in the Muscogee Nation jurisdiction attended the event to get a better idea about possible career opportunities.

Representatives from a variety of careers from tribal health to state game wardens to helicopter emergency response teams were on hand to answer student's questions about their professions. Students got to ask the professionals questions about topics such as academic preparation and even what kinds of salaries each job field offered. "We want them to know that these careers are available to them, and that they can start planning for scholarships in that area," Thomas said, "If there's a health area, if there's something that they want to find out about scholarships then they can aim towards that, instead of waiting until the last minute."

In past years, a main focus has been on higher education in colleges and universities. Those goals are still important, but Thomas pointed out that many students are not necessarily interested in those directions. Vocational opportunities and training have gained more interest in recent years.

Thomas said, "We're also encouraging vocation. You see a lot of vocational jobs that are here from the OSU Tech. We know that it's not their (the students) forte to go to a four-year university or to a college, but they still would have a career in a technical college, so we're showing them what's out there."

MNN/*Gary Fife*
Cherokee motivational speaker and holder of 10 Guinness Book of Records titles, Brian Jackson talks to students about their potential in their future careers. Jackson was also the keynote speaker at the JOM Career Day.

Brian Jackson, Cherokee motivational speaker and holder of 10 Guinness Book of Records titles was keynote speaker. Jackson was recognized by many of the attending students for his appearance on the popular TV program, "America's Got Talent."

His talk and demonstration of blowing up and exploding rubber hot water bottles with his lungs held their attention. Thomas said that Jackson was there, "To let them know that he shared a little about his life and what he came through. The struggles that he had, and it wasn't very optimistic when he was their age and look where he is today."

The MCN JOM program serves 47 school districts within the Creek Nation jurisdiction. It serves approximately 16,000 students in those schools. It provides technical assistance and coordination with each school district. The program has paid for student college testing programs and such things as books and athletic shoes. JOM, Thomas noted, was to meet the special needs of Indian children, whatever those needs may be.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs had been the prime financial supporter of the JOM programs, but those funds have been cut in recent years. The tribe has taken up that financial slack, providing critical monetary supplements to keep the program going.

The success of JOM efforts could be measured in the enthusiasm of the 450 young people attending this career day. Many tables were mobbed by these middle school students who were lined up to ask questions.

But, another measure, Thomas shared, was in the return of many former students who were now working in JOM programs to help their younger peers, "We have actually hired former students of JOM, who've come back and worked for JOM programs. I have one student now, a former JOM student, and now she's our activities coordinator."

TU to host Native American Pre-Law Day March 3, 2012

Media Release
University of Tulsa College of Law

TULSA — The University of Tulsa College of Law will sponsor a Native American Pre-Law Day on Saturday, March 3, 2012 from 8:15 a.m.-5:30 p.m., to encourage Native American senior high school and early college students to consider a career in law.

Sessions will focus on how to prepare for law school, what law school is like (from student perspective), how to apply to law school, etc. Guests will also have an opportunity to observe a mock law class taught by Professor Bill Rice, Co-Director of Tulsa's Native American Law Center.

American Indian college and senior high school students are invited to attend. A limited number of scholarships are available to assist with travel costs for students outside easy driving distance of Tulsa.

Participants will have the opportunity to see whether law school is the right fit for them. They will learn how to prepare now for a future career in Law. Prominent Native American attorneys will discuss their backgrounds and careers, law school representatives will provide information about the law school admissions process and how to finance a legal education, current Indian law students will tell what law school is really like, and Indian law professors will provide guidance on how to prepare for law school.

This workshop, which is funded by the Law School Admissions Council and co-hosted by Oklahoma City University School of Law, the University of Oklahoma College of Law, and the University of Tulsa College of Law, is designed to heighten awareness about the numerous benefits associated with DiscoverLaw.org registration.

Space is limited, and registration is on a first come/first serve basis. Please register in advance. Walk-ins are welcomed only as space permits. email the information to lawadmissions@utulsa.edu or call (918) 631-2406 by Feb. 21, 2012.

Following the Native American Pre-Law Day, all attendees of the pre-law event are invited to tour the Enduring Spirit exhibit of Native American art and artifacts at Gilcrease Museum from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Shuttles will depart the TU campus at 4 p.m., for those who wish to be transported to and from the museum.

For more information, call (918) 631 - 2406.

College of the Muscogee Nation calls for public commentary for accreditation

Media Release
College of the Muscogee Nation

OKMULGEE — The College of the Muscogee Nation is seeking comments from the public about the college in preparation for its periodic evaluation by its regional accrediting agency.

The CMN will host a visit May 21-23, 2012, with a team representing the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association.

The team will review the institution's ongoing ability to meet the Commission's Criteria for Accreditation.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding the college via mail to: Public Comment on College of the Muscogee Nation, The Higher Learning Commission, 230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500, Chicago, IL 60604-1411

The public may also submit comments on the Commission's Web Site at www.ncahlc.org.

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs and must be must be in writing.

All comments must be received by April 21, 2012.

Cancer Care Community Education offered in Holdenville

Media Release
MCN Division of Health

HOLDENVILLE—Every Tuesday and Thursday, beginning Jan. 17, 2012, the Native Navigators will host cancer continuum sessions at the Holdenville Indian Community Center located at 224 E. Poplar St., in Holdenville.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Health will be hosting educational seminars on cancer: prevention, early detection, survivorship and comfort/care. The project is subcontracted with Native American Cancer Research to conduct the Native Navigators and Cancer Continuum Project.

The project aims to increase cancer knowledge among the community participants, enhance the visibility and availability of the local Navigators who are available to help community members schedule screening appointments, carry out follow-up recommendations, and provide support and education for those diagnosed with cancer.

Trained patient navigators will conduct community-based cancer education seminars in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. All types of cancer will be covered and the workshops are open participation. A total of 24 hours of training will be offered.

The classes will be offered every Tuesday and Thursday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Participants will be evaluated pre- and post-seminar. A summary of results will be provided to the community and participants after the workshops are completed. In March the next education series will begin in another area of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation area.

For more information, please contact Kathy Cole at (918) 441-6048, Loretta Denny at (918) 441-6049 or Debra Isham, the Project Director at 1-855-623-1189.

Cancer Care Community Education Calendar
Time: 6-8 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays

Early' Detection:
Thursday, Jan. 26, 2012
Get on the Path to Breast Health

Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2012
Get on the Path to Colon Health

Thursday, Feb. 2, 2012
Get on the Path to Lung Health

Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2012
Get on the Path to Cervix Health

Thursday, Feb. 9, 2012
Get on the Path to Prostate Health

Survivorship:
Tuesday, Feb. 14
Native American Cancer Education for Survivors

Thursday, Feb. 16, 2012
Side Effects (NACES)

Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2012
Survivors' Support Circles

Comfort/ Preventative Care:
Thursday, Feb. 23, 2012
Wills & Advance Directive

Everyone 18 years or older will receive a $10 gift card after each session for participation.

Change a life.
Become a Foster/Adoptive Parent
Children. Keepers of our tradition.
NICWA
National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting our children • Preserving our culture
Preserve our heritage, become a foster/adoption parent today.
In the State of Oklahoma, there are Muscogee Creek Children in state and tribal custody looking for a place to call "cuko" (home).
Become a Foster/Adoptive tribal home.
For more information contact: Tammi Reed-Barnett
at (918)732-7883 OR email: tammirb@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

Summer Youth 2012

Accepting Applications: December 19 through March 2.
Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Youth Employment Program.

To apply call 918 732.7775 or 7776
Or 1800 482-1979 ext. 7775 or 7776

Deadline to get all the paperwork in to the office is March 16, 2012
No fax applications will be accepted. Must be a member of a Federally recognized tribe and between the ages of 16 and 21.

Muscogee Nation News

Feb. 2, 2012
Vol. 42, Issue 3

Official Semi-Monthly Publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Principal Chief brings State of the Nation to National Council

MNN/Rebecca Landsberry

Pictured above (from left to right) are Muscogee (Creek) National Council Second Speaker Cherrah Ridge, Legislative Secretary Terry Fish, Principal Chief George Tiger, Sgt.-At-Arms Shirlene Ade and Rep. Thomas Yahola.

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — In a spirit of cooperation, Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, George Tiger, delivered his first State of the Nation address to the Muscogee National Council and citizens Jan 28, 2012.

Tiger said that he ,"had sat down together in a unified manner as two equal branches of government and talked about issues facing our nation. The line of communication has not happened in many years." His predecessor, A.D. Ellis, had not addressed the National Council with his State of the Nation speech for two years.

Tiger delivered his address, outlining his 'tribal vision statement' from the Claude Cox Omniplex Multipurpose Building, to the National Council and assembled citizens. He also listed accomplishments for his administration during the first month in office.

In that address, Tiger unveiled an aggressive plan to deal with issues facing the tribe. His agenda includes reorganization of procedures for tribal departments and an effort to strengthen ties with tribal towns and communities.

Executive orders that had revoked charters for the Duck Creek and Eufaula communities were lifted.

He added that he would be working to dismiss the numerous lawsuits that have created "turmoil between the branches" of tribal government.

Restrictions on contacts between tribal employees and national council representatives will be eliminated.

Tiger declared, "It is my belief that all employees should be able to communicate with elected officials without the threat of being fired." Additions will be made for the tribe's supreme court and the Gaming Operations Authority Board.

Tiger also listed initiatives that he has undertaken in his first month in office. An application for a small business planning grant has been filed, farming leases are in negotiation, and new nominations for district court judges, justices, an attorney general and College of the Muscogee Nation regents have been made.

He has called for tribal budgets to be developed in a "constitutional process" and assessed to ensure efficient spending and transparency.

In conclusion, Tiger vowed, "We will expand and improve our programs and services and zealously seek economic development to attain these goals. We are still here. We are Mvskoke!"

> "We will expand and improve our programs and services and zealously seek economic development to attain these goals. We are still here. We are Mvskoke!"
>
> — Principal Chief George Tiger

Tiger plans to meet with the leadership and members of communities to obtain their input for reforms. The principal chief will also be authorizing a financial review of tribal investments and funds to analyze their performance and find ways to increase returns.

MCN Citizenship Board to host public hearing March 8, 2012

Media Release
MCN Citizenship Office

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Board, under the authority granted by (M(C) NCA) Title 7, § 2-109 A, has created policies and procedures.

The purpose of the policies and procedures is to provide an administrative framework for internal operational procedures, including, but not limited to: rules for the review of citizenship applications, for hearings and appeals, and such other purposes necessary for the efficient performance of the MCN Citizenship Board's operations.

A public hearing will be held March 8, 2012 from 6-7 p.m., at the Mound Building Auditorium to discuss these policies and procedures.

Prior to the public hearing, a copy of the policies and procedures will be available for review at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Office located at the Capitol Complex in Okmulgee. Okla.

For more information, contact the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Office at (918) 732-7753.

Administration extends requests for resumes

Media Release
MCN Office of the Principal Chief

OKMULGEE — Jan. 7, 2012 marked the beginning of a new era in the long and proud history of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the beginning of a new tribal administration.

The newly elected Principal Chief has a new vision for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. It is a vision that includes upholding traditional Muscogee ways and values while at the same time elevating the Nation's government and business operations to unprecedented levels of effectiveness, accountability and service. To accomplish this ambitious vision, we need to fill multiple leadership positions across the Nation's administrative, health, education, social services, law enforcement, judiciary, and business operations.

Potential candidates should possess the following

- Experience
- Education
- Proven track record of leadership and accomplishment
- Demonstrate a winning attitude
- Work well in a team environment
- Strong commitment to the Administration's vision and goals for the Muscogee (Creek) people

If you meet the qualifications...

Submit your resume or C.V. to LSpaulding@MekkoTiger.com and include the following:

- Experience
- Skills in field of endeavor
- Explanation of why you feel you are a good fit for this tribal administration

Attach examples of your winning attitude, how you have made a difference, your leadership successes and how you have worked well in a team environment to achieve ambitious goals and a shared vision.

We want you! Join us and make a difference! All positions are subject to Muscogee (Creek) Nation and Native American hiring preference

Ce'puyacetos ce!

For more information about Muscogee (Creek) Nation, visit our website at www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov.

MNN 3 - PEOPLE
Giles-Ridge Announcement

MNN 4 - LOCAL NEWS
Twin Hills breaks ground on convenience store

MNN 6 - FEATURE
McGirt earns high school diploma after nearly 60 years

MNN 7 - EDUCATION
International meeting held at Euchee House

MNN 8 - ADVERTISEMENT
Summer Youth 2012

PR SRT FIRST CLASS
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO 49
STIGLER, OK 74462

CREEK NATION COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Reintegration Program Coat Drive

HENRYETTA — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration program is still taking donations of new or gently used coats. Donations can be dropped off at the MCN Reintegration program or arrangements can be made to have them picked up.

For more information, please contact Becky Billingsly at (800) 259-1059 or (918) 652-2676.

Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

OKMULGEE — February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.

The MCN Family Violence Prevention program is asking Muscogee teens to take the pledge to always treat their dating partners with respect.

Teens should post the pledge to their Facebook or Twitter page, email the pledge to coworkers and text the pledge to friends.

"Break The Silence. Be Part of the Solution."

For more information, or to request a presentation about dating violence, please contact Mitzi Pope, Youth Advocate with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program at 1-800-521-5432.

Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative to host Harvest Meal Feb. 17

SAPULPA — Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative will host a Harvest Meal in the Sapulpa Feb. 17, 2012 at the Sapulpa Indian Community Center located at 1020 North Brown Street in Sapulpa, beginning at 4 p.m.

Community members are encouraged to bring their child/grandchild to this event and share their gardening stories with them. MFSI will provide the meal, and community members are welcome to bring their favorite dish, if desired. The event will feature free garden seeds, door prizes and fun for all ages.

MFSI Education and Policy Coordinator Rita Williams will have a presentation on "Growing Healthy Communities" at this free event.

The goal of MFSI is to spark an interest in the youth to garden and sell their produce at a local farmers market and to encourage elders to container garden while sharing their stories with the youth.

Other events hosted by MFSI this month include:

- Feb. 12 - 1 p.m. - Osafke Cooking Class - Wilson Indian Community Center
- Feb. 17 - 4 p.m. - Youth and Elder Harvest Meal - Sapulpa Indian Community Center
- Feb. 19 - 1 p.m. - Pumpkin Seed Saving and Cooking Class - Wilson Indian Community Center
- Feb. 26 - 1 p.m. - Cvtvhakv burning - Wilson Indian Community Center

Please RSVP with the MFSI Office (918) 756-5915 to Melody Reader (918) 752-6113, Stephanie Berryhill (918) 759-0817, or June Marshall (918) 752-6139.

Parent Committee Grocery Bingo set for March 17

OKMULGEE — The OSU Parent Committee 2011-2012, is hosting a fund-raiser bingo at Okmulgee Indian Community Center Sat. March 17.

Bingo starts at 1 p.m., with the food sale beginning at 11 a.m.

Most of the food items were donated by local businesses. Some of the items available will be homemade chili, desserts, chili-cheese hotdogs, Frito pies and popcorn.

We will also announce the winners of the Lucky Charm Contest.

For more information, contact the Parent Committe at (918) 304-0476 or (918) 752-1444 or by email at: lmbear@okstate.edu

Summer Youth application deadline set for March 16

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Summer Youth Employment Program is accepting applications for the upcoming year.

The deadline for submitting applications is March 16, 2012 at the Human Development Employment and Training Office.

For more information, please contact 918-732-7775 or 7776. You may also call 1-800-482-1979 ext. 7775 or 7776. No fax applications will be accepted. Applicants must be a member of a federally recognized tribe and between the ages of 16 and 21.

Little Cussetah UMC to host wild onion dinner March 24

SCHULTER — Little Cussetah United Methodist will host their annual wild onion dinner Saturday, March 24 beginning at 11 a.m. Dinners will be $7 for adults and $5 for children and include all-you-can-eat items such as salt meat, sofkey, drink and dessert.

For more information, check them out on Facebook at Little Cussetah UMC or contact Paul Tecumseh at (918) 270-0213 or Nelson Harjo at (918) 752-7731.

Sexual Assault Awareness Walk set for April 11

OKMULGEE — "Walk a Mile In Her Shoes" is the theme for the 2012 Sexual Assault Awareness Walk, set for April 11, 2012.

The event will begin at 1 p.m. at the MCN Mound building. It is sponsored by the MCN Family Violence Prevention Program.

For more information, contact Tina Qualls at (918)-813-6900 or email tqualls@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

TAKE THE PLEDGE!

I PLEDGE:

To ALWAYS treat my dating partner with RESPECT, NEVER HURT my partner physically, verbally, or emotionally, NOT be controlling or Manipulative, And to ACCEPT Responsibility for my actions.

TAKE A MOMENT AND PLEDGE

February 2012

- Post the Pledge to your FACEBOOK or TWITTER page
- Email the Pledge to your co-workers
- Text the pledge to your friends

BREAK THE SILENCE. BE PART OF THE SOLUTION.

For more information or to request a presentation about Dating Violence, please contact Mitzi Pope, Youth Advocate, with Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program at 1 (800) 521-5432.

ACCOMPLISHMENT

NORA CHEEK

OKLAHOMA CITY — Nora R. Cheek (Arhalokoche) was one of 50 recipients of the Oklahoma Indian Elders Honored at the AARP Awards dinner held Oct. 4, 2011, at the Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City.

Nora R. Cheek was born July 27, 1918 in Okemah, Okla., to Siah Manley and Susie Robison-Manley (Sister Hutke). Nora married Weaver Cheek (Arhalokoche) And had 10 children, seven girls and three boys, and was employed with the Cooperton School as a cook where she remained for five years.

After the death of Weaver Cheek (Arhalokoche), Nora returned to Okemah with her children and attended Thlopthlocco Methodist Church.

Nora worked at the Okemah cafeteria for several years until she attained employment as a Medical Care Aide until the time of her retirement, after which, she became more involved with her tribal town of Thlopthlocco as an employee and tribal member still exercising her heritage and birth right by participation and her voting privilege.

Through her works and services to her community, she earned the respect and love of the citizens of Okemah and several local business owners and city leaders as well as her Thlopthlocco Tribal Town where she is the oldest surviving member, and of the Bird Clan.

In 2007 she was selected Co-Parade Marshall by the Okemah Indian Community during the Creek Nation Fall Festival.

Cheek (Arhalokoche) loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, devoted and committed to her faith and belief in Our lord and Father, her legacy will be carried forward through her 24 grand-children and 39 great-grand-children.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GILES - RIDGE

TULSA — Cherrah De'Ann Ridge of Broken Arrow Tribal Town from the Bird Clan to wed Justin Bruce Giles of Broken Arrow Tribal Town from the Tiger Clan.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Eddie and Debbie (Bender) Ridge of Tulsa. She is the granddaughter of the late Bennie and Ella (Colbert) Bender and the late Watie and Helen (Holmes) Ridge.

The prospective bridegroom is the son of John and Marcella (Burgess) Giles of McLean, Va. He is the grandson of the late Yahola and Lahoma (Moore) Burgess and the late Richard and Cornelia (Cuppett) Giles

The bride-elect graduated from Booker T. Washington High School and the University of Oklahoma.

Ridge is a social worker with St. John Medical Center and Second Speaker of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council.

The prospective bridegroom graduated from Langley High School and University of Virginia.

He is Assistant Director of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Museum and Cultural Center.

The wedding is planned for Oct. 6, 2012, at Muscogee (Creek) Nation Capitol in Okmulgee, Okla.

JACKSON - EVANS

TULSA — Robert Darrell Jackson Jr., and Krystal Dawn Evans, both of Tulsa, were united in marriage Dec. 3, 2011.

The Bride is the daughter of Gary and Darla Evans of Owasso and Anita Toddy of Tulsa. She is the granddaughter of Melba Wadsworth.

The Groom is the son ofJames and Karen Calitri and Robert Darrell Jackson Sr., all of Tulsa.

His maternal grandparents are Charles and Marilyn Watson of Jenks and his paternal grandparents are Roy C. Jackson of Tulsa and the late Virgie Wind Jackson.

The ceremony and reception were held at the Arrow Springs Chapel in Broken Arrow. After a wedding trip to Fla., the couple has made their home in Tulsa.

BIRTH

PARKER REED DEROIN

TULSA — Parker Reed DeRoin of Eufaula and Hominy was born Nov. 12, 2011 at St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa.

He weighed six pounds, 15 ounces and was 21.25 inches long.

DeRoin is Muscogee (Creek), Otoe-Missouria and Osage.

He is a member of the Bear Clan and attends Big Arbor Indian Baptist Church.

Parents are Reuben Battiste DeRoin and Erin Saltsman.

Parker has one brother, Alexander DeRoin.

Maternal grandparents are Gordon Parker Jr., and Lynda Saltsman .

Paternal grandparents are Reuben Reed and Meleaia DeRoin.

Maternal great-grandparents are Gordon Parker Sr., and Frankie Saltsman, and Sandy and Louise McIntosh.

Paternal great-grandparents are Reuben Hoss and Ruth Ferguson DeRoin, and Gordon Smith and Betty Mullins.

BIRTHDAY

JUSTIN BERRYHILL

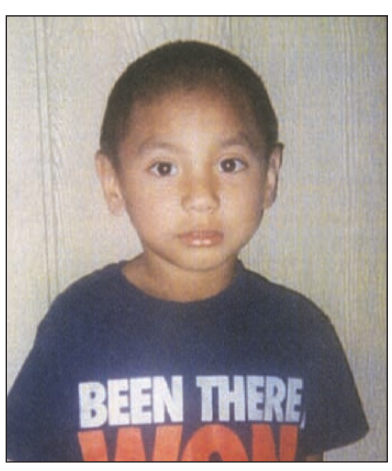
OKLAHOMA CITY — Justin "Tenetke" Berryhill celebrated his seventh birthday Nov. 22, 2011 with a with a football themed party Dec. 3, 2011 at the Science Museum of Oklahoma along with school friends and family.

He is in first grade at Oklahoma Christian School in Edmond.

Mother is Rene' Berryhill-Mutuku of Edmond.

Grandparents are Merle Berryhill of Preston and Beatrice Lowe-Meshaya and Terry Meshaya of Arcadia.

CLINTON FACTOR



SAND SPRINGS — Clinton Kelly Factor celebrated his fifth birthday Jan. 18, 2012.

Factor is the son of Reuben and Cynthia Factor. His grandparents are Bonnie Factor and Tony Grayson, also Richard Watashe and Marvin and Connie Edmonds.

Factor is a member of Big Cussetah United Methodist Church.

KUNAWV KAULAITY

OKLAHOMA CITY — Kunawv Lozen Kaulaity celebrated her fourth birthday Jan. 14, 2012.

She celebrated at Chuck-E-Cheese in Oklahoma City with siblings: Mekhia Mendoza, Sv-le-kv McKinney and Jonas Kaulaity.

Kunawv is the daughter of Kicup Koce "Ekaese." McKinney is from Tulsa and Gary "B.J." Kaulaity of Apache.

Kunawv is Creek, Cherokee, Ft. Sill, Apache, Comanche and Kiowa.

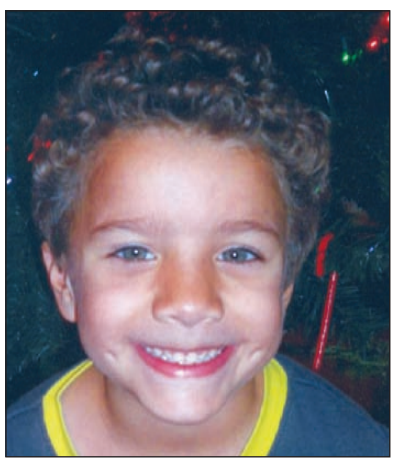
Kunawv's maternal grandparents are Carlene McCarter-Echo Hawk of Tahlequah and Danny McKinney of Tulsa.

She is the great-granddaughter of Bennie McKinney and Jessie Gray. She is the great-great-granddaughter of the late Netche Gray.

Paternal grandparents are Diane Mithlo-Downing of Apache and Gary Kaulaity Sr. of Anadarko. She is the great granddaughter of Juanita Bentley of Apache.

Kunawv is a student at Muscogee (Creek) Nation Head Start in Okmulgee.

PAULO RODRIGUEZ



SPRING, Texas — Paulo Daniel Rodriguez celebrated his sixth birthday Nov. 4, 2011 with his family in Spring, Texas.

Rodriguez has two siblings, Diego, 8, and Carlo, 1. He is the son of Daniel and Caitlyn Rodriguez.

Rodriguez is the grandson of Robert Combs and Lynn Lutzen. He is also grandson of Jesus Rodriguez and Wilma Daal. Rodriguez is great-grandson of Joanna and Harold Combs.

Rodriguez is a member of Coweta Tribal Town.

DIEGO RODRIGUEZ

SPRING, Texas — Diego Robert Rodriguez celebrated his eighth birthday Oct. 31, 2011 with his family in Spring, Texas.

Rodriguez has two siblings, Paulo, 6, and Carlo, 1. He is the son of Daniel and Caitlyn Rodriguez.

Rodriguez is the grandson of Robert Combs and Lynn Lutzen. He is also grandson of Jesus Rodriguez and Wilma Daal. Rodriguez is great-grandson of Joanna and Harold Combs.

Rodriguez is a member of Coweta Tribal Town.

Muscogee Nation News
STAFF

Manager - Gerald Wofford
Editor - Rebecca Landsberry
Editorial Assistant - Gary Fife
Reporter - Sterling Cosper
Advertising - Johnna Townsend

The Muscogee Nation News is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Its purpose is to meet any possible need of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to ***The Muscogee Nation News*** unless other copyrights are shown.

Editorial statements appearing in ***The Muscogee Nation News***, guest columns and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of ***The Muscogee Nation News***, its advisors nor the tribal administration. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Please contact our office for deadline of submissions to be considered for inclusion. ***The Muscogee Nation News*** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate ***The Muscogee Nation News*** in any regard.

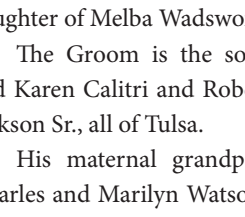
The Muscogee Nation News is mailed from Stigler, Okla., to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

TO CHANGE OR SUBMIT AN ADDRESS, PLEASE CALL (918) 732-7720 or send e-mail to: wmurphy@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

NAJA

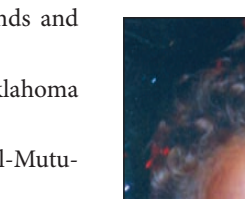
Birthdays, Births & Special Announcements!

Birthday:



Roll Number:_____
Phone Number: (___)_____
Name: _____
Address:_____
Date of Birth: _____
Theme of the party:_____
Parents: _____
Siblings: _____
Maternal and Paternal grandparents:
_____
Maternal and Paternal great grandparents:
_____
School: _____
Clan: _____
Tribal Town:_____

Birth:



Roll Number:_____
Phone Number: (___)_____
Name: _____
Address:_____
Date of Birth: _____
Name of Hospital: _____
Weight: _____ pounds _____ ounces_____inches
Parents: _____
Siblings: _____
Maternal and Paternal grandparents:
_____
Maternal and Paternal great grandparents:
_____
Clan: _____
Tribal Town:_____

Announcements:

Roll Number:_____
Phone Number: (___)_____
Name: _____
Address:_____
Parents: _____
Siblings: _____
Maternal and Paternal grandparents:
_____
Maternal and Paternal great grandparents:
_____
Clan: _____
Tribal Town:_____
Please attach announcement

PLEASE SEND PHOTO(S) To: MCN Communications Dept. • P.O. Box 580 • Okmulgee, OK 74447

Twin Hills breaks ground on convenience store

MNN/Lee Longhorn

Pictured above (from left to right) are Contractor Terry Addington, Store Manager Gary Hudgens, Community Treasurer Norma Hale, Rep. James Jennings, Second Chief Roger Barnett, Community Chairman Levi On-The-Hill, Community Secretary Patsy Morgan and Community Vice-Chair Mark Pendergrass.

Media Release
Twin Hills Community

TWIN HILLS — The Twin Hills Creek Indian Community has been working on a new economic endeavor for the past six years.

On Dec. 16, 2011, the community broke ground on a new Convenience Plaza.

Community members as well as Muscogee (Creek) Nation Speaker Roger Barnett (at the time of the event) and Okmulgee Dist. Rep. James Jennings along with construction contractor Terry Addington of CT Construction were present for the groundbreaking ceremony.

The name of the store will be Twin Hills Convenience Plaza. The store will offer a much-needed resource to the surrounding community that will offer gasoline, food as well as fountain drinks and other refreshments.

The store will be open seven days a week, with the hours to be determined. The store will began construction in January 2012 and is estimated to be completed in 90-120 days, pending weather conditions.

Students invited to register for language fair

Media Release
Sam Noble Museum

NORMAN—Students of Native American languages from preschool to high school age are encouraged to enter the 10th annual Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair, scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, April 2 and 3, at the Sam Noble Museum in Norman. Participants in grades pre-K through 12 will demonstrate their language skills as groups or individuals in the spoken language and language in song categories.

Other competition categories include poster art and book categories, open to grades three through 12; language with PowerPoint presentation and film/video categories, both open to sixth- through 12th-graders; a language advocacy essay category, open to grades nine through 12; and a language masters performance category for grades nine through 12, designed to showcase the language skills of students who have grown up speaking a Native American language. A new category for 2012 is poetry writing and performance; it is open to all ages. Registration deadline is March 12.

The competition draws more than 600 participants from across Oklahoma as well as neighboring states competing in as many as 27 Native American languages. Pre-K through fifth-grade competitions will take place on Monday, April 2; sixth- through 12th-grade competitions are set for Tuesday, April 3. The top three award-winners in each age group and category will receive a trophy that can be displayed at their school or tribal center. Every student who participates will receive a medallion and Language Fair T-shirt. For the 10th anniversary, every student also will receive a 2012 calendar with poster art for the last 10 years in addition to other language prizes. Fair participants will be honored at the state capitol on Monday, April 9, and all students and programs are invited to attend.

A panel of elders and teachers from several different tribes will judge the spoken language and language in song competitions. Native artists will judge the posters based on creativity and use of this year's theme, "Language in My Heart." In addition, Native authors will judge the book and poetry competitions.

To register and for additional information, visit http://nal.snomnh.ou.edu/onaylf. Deadline for registration is Monday, March 12. PowerPoint presentations, films, books, poetry, and poster entries must be received by March 16. No late entries will be accepted.

To have forms sent by mail, or for additional information, participants may contact the museum's Native American Languages department at (405) 325-7588 or by email at ONAYLF@snomnh.ou.edu. The 2011 Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair is made possible, in part, by the Boeing Company and the Cyril Foundation.

The Sam Noble Museum is located on the University of Oklahoma Norman campus at Timberdell Road and Chautauqua Avenue. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is $5 for adults, $4 for seniors 65 and up, and $3 for youth ages 6 to 17. Children ages 5 and under are free. Discounts are available for military personnel and their immediate families. There is no additional admission fee to see Warrior Spirits.

For more information about the museum, call (405) 325-4712, or visit the museum's website at www.snomnh.ou.edu.

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The Mortgage Down Payment and Closing Cost Program

The Mortgage Down Payment and Closing Cost Program helps Native Americans become first time homeowners by providing financial assistance for acquiring a home mortgage.

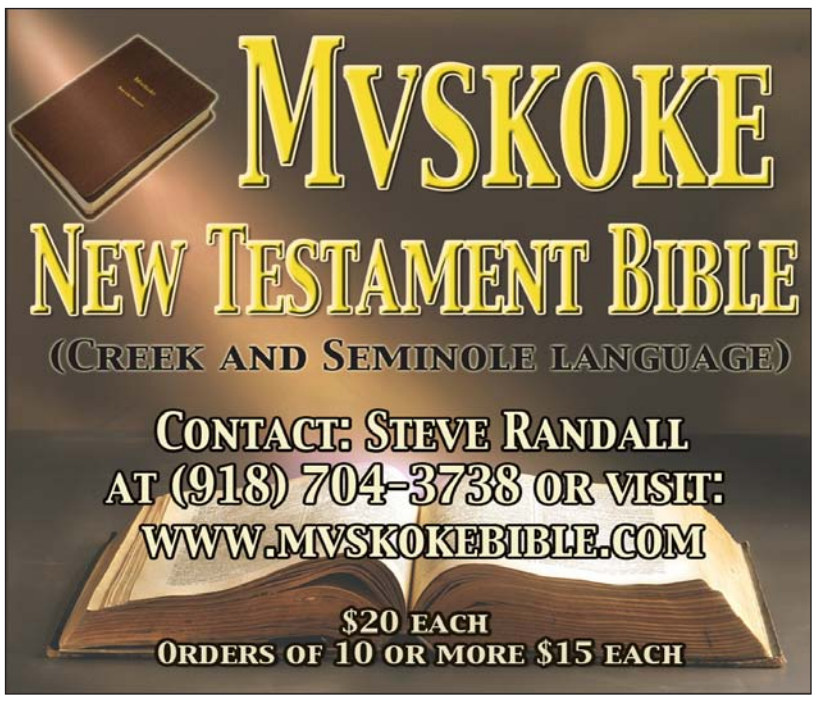
To pre-qualify for the program, the applicant must meet the following requirements.

- Preference will be given to Creek Citizens.
- Be a first time home buyer or not have owned a home within five years of application.
- Live within the State of Oklahoma.
- Must not be an existing or former Mutual Help participant or NAHASDA Homebuyer/Lease with Option to Purchase regardless of Housing Service Area.
- Have an annual family income which does not exceed 80% of the national Median income as published by HUD.
- Be 18 years or older.
- Provide all requested information, which includes Citizenship cards for preference purposes, Social Security cards and employment verification for each working family member.
- Sign all required forms including the Consent for Disclosure of Information.
- Meet all credit check and financial obligations for loan assistance from an approved and certified financial lender.

FOR A PRE-APPLICATION CONTACT LADONNA NORTHCROSS AT 918-549-2554 OR VISIT THE WEBSITE AT www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov

The Mortgage Down Payment Assistance program Pre-Approval does not guarantee a Mortgage Loan from an Outside Lender.

Change a life.
Become a Foster/Adoptive Parent
GREAT SEAL OF THE MUSCOGEE NATION I. T.
Children. Keepers of our tradition.
NICWA
National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting our children • Preserving our culture
Preserve our heritage, become a foster/adoption parent today.
In the State of Oklahoma, there are Muscogee Creek Children in state and tribal custody looking for a place to call "cuko" (home).
Become a Foster/Adoptive tribal home.
For more information contact: Tammi Reed-Barnett
at (918)732-7883 OR email: tammirb@muscogeenation-nsn.gov



ULTIMATE ALTIMA NEW CAR GIVEAWAY
NOON - 10PM
$10 Match Play for all Diamond Club members

NOON - 9:30PM
Five (5) Hot Seat prize drawings every 30 minutes. Every Hot Seat winner will receive a $100 Free Play and drawing ticket.

9:45PM
We will draw one (1) ticket for a 2012 Nissan Altima.

His-n-Her $10K Giveaways
Feb. 14th Valentines Day

3PM - 9PM
Chocolate candy for every Diamond Club member. 2 Hot Seat drawings for men and 2 Hot Seat drawings for ladies every 1/2 hour from 3:30PM - 8:30PM.

$10,000 in cash prizes for the men must go and $10,000 in cash prizes for the women must go!

President's Day Scratch -n- Match
February 20th 3PM - 9PM

Each Diamond Club member will receive a President's Day scratch off game card. Prizes include $10, $20, and $50 match plays, $100 free plays or $500 cash prizes.

Mardi Gras
Feb. 25th

$10 Match Play
Must be a Diamond Club member to participate. Every Diamond Club member will receive a $10 match play.

Hot Seat Prize Drawings
We will conduct five (5) - $100 free play hot seat drawings every ½ hour from 1:30 PM – 8:30 PM, one (1) $250 cash hot seat prize drawing every ½ hour from 1:30 PM – 7:00 PM, $1,000 cash hot seat prize drawings at 7:30 PM and 8:00 PM, a $5,000 cash hot seat prize drawing at 8:30 PM.

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'LUCK STRIKES HERE'

CREEK NATION Casino MUSCOGEE

Coming and Going in Indian Country

by Joy Harjo

I have been up here in Vancouver, B.C., hosted by the First Nations House of Learning here at the University of British Columbia. This program of indigenous studies is quite a cultural model for other indigenous studies programs, and could even be a model for a cultural and arts center for our tribe.

The longhouse is a traditional gathering place for nations in this area and reflects the architecture of the Northwest Coast. Sty-Wet-Tan Hall is marked by four stunning totem poles, made to provide a foundation of understanding for the students, faculty, staff, community members and all who enter. It is the center. There is a sense of home throughout the center that houses offices, a library and gathering places for students and community. It is quite inspiring.

While here I have met with classes at the university, and with community groups. I will be performing my play and music. I visited with women's groups at the Friendship Centre in East Vancouver. The second group was at a youth center for young women who have dealt with domestic violence and other difficulties. This was a highlight. We met together at their center, and then we took a van to North Vancouver to the Squamish Reserve to meet with the skipper who agreed to take us out on the water together.

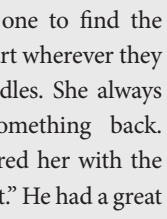
Wes Baker is his English name.

This was not a usual request. The canoes don't usually go out in winter. We went out in a West Coast traditional Salish canoe to the water to paddle together. Wes knew the canoe as if it were his own body. He knew the water also in that manner. I appreciated the protocols that made a ceremony of entering the canoe, entering the water and moving through the waters together, and for the return. The canoe culture has revived and grown in the last several years, with many canoes from many of the nations up here journeying miles across water. It takes great strength of working together of mind, body and spirit to paddle a canoe through the waters. And everyone must pull together. As we traveled he told us many stories of the place, of the waters, and one anecdote was of a very generous friend who is always the first one to find the store, or Wal-Mart wherever they go on these paddles. She always brings them something back. They have honored her with the name: "Shopsalot." He had a great sense of humor. I will always remember this day. It was a special one on the necklace of days.

What has threaded through this time here is the song "Espoketis Omes Kerreskos." I hear it and sing it constantly. I have been studying how our Mvskoke music is a root of jazz, blues and rock. To even state what has become a very obvious truth rocks the foundation of American music. Hugh Foley, one of our Okla., musicologists showed me how this song marks the trail of influence. It is a kind of song line that follows the Trail of Tears. Take a listen to the Rolling Stones, "The Last Time" and you'll here one direction the trail led. We were there at the birth of American music.

This morning I head out into the day. This could be the last time, we never know. So let's act with the kind of awareness and treat everyone with kindness.

Mvto.



McGirt earns high school diploma after nearly 60 years

Gerald Wofford
MCN Communications Manager

MOSS — For most people, graduating from high school only takes an average of 18 years, however, for Raymond McGirt, it took almost a lifetime. Not that McGirt dropped out or didn't want to obtain this important educational document; it's just that an event called World War II kind of got in the way.

In 1944, McGirt was a junior set to graduate from Lamar High School, but when the terrible global event occurred, McGirt, like so many young men of his age, answered the call.

McGirt was drafted, even though he was still finishing high school. "Uncle Sam sent me the papers," recalls McGirt, "they weren't going to change their minds, either, about that," said McGirt when explaining his youthful status.

McGirt saw combat duty in the Pacific serving in the U.S. Army, 2nd Battalion, 20th Infantry Division, and beside facing a determined Japanese force, dealt with other conditions that island occupation brings such malaria, mosquitoes and the daily orders of being patient and dug out in foxholes.

McGirt also made the historic landing at Lujan in January 1945. McGirt described the fighting style of the Japanese as "very strong" and in his opinion; he would have rather fought the German Army in the Pacific.

"The Japanese had such tenacity, it seemed even when you had them on the run, they would simply reorganize and come right back at you," McGirt remembers.

After the Japanese surrendered in September 1945, McGirt, like so many of thousands of veterans would return to civilian life, but it didn't seem to suit him. January 1946 saw McGirt make the decision of re-enlisting and his tour of duty included another horrific war in Korea.

During his second tour, McGirt was able to learn about engineering, which helped him when he returned to civilian life. He found employment as an engineer and construction worker for 36 years.

MNN/*Gerald Wofford*
Raymond McGirt received his high school diploma 59 years after he was in school. His studies were disrupted by his service in WWII as a draftee to the U.S. Army in 1944.

Years passed and future wars and conflicts the United States were involved with occurred. McGirt and many from his generation, which earned the nickname 'The Greatest Generation,' saw their sacrifices recognized and honored more and more by future generations.

McGirt was honored to have these salutes, but of all the honors that he and his brothers-in-arms received, there was another that he greatly sought. McGirt had always thought about what it might have been like to walk across the stage of his High School Auditorium and receive his high school diploma, the one that eluded him so many years before.

The answer would actually come in simplistic terms. "A friend of mine in Lamar was curious as to if I ever received my high school diploma," explains McGirt. "He told me that he had a niece that worked in the high school principal's office and would see into it. Later, I received a letter from the school stating that they would be honored to have me participate in their graduation ceremonies to receive my diploma."

On May 17, 2003, former U.S. Army Pvt. Raymond McGirt finally received his high school diploma. The special ceremony was attended by nearly everyone in the small town of nearby Moss.

"The biggest dilemma now is if Raymond may attend the 10-year reunion next year!" laughs wife, Paula.

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTER
&
VETERAN AFFAIRS SERVICES OFFICE

IN COLLABORATION WITH
SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN

PRESENTS

NATIVE WORDS, NATIVE WARRIORS

NOVEMBER 11, 2011 – FEBRUARY 29, 2012

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Smithsonian Institution

EXHIBITION AT MUSCOGEE VETERANS BUILDING
For more information contact
Muscogee Tourism & Recreation: 918-732-7992

Developed by the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service with generous support from Elizabeth Hunter Solomon, the Smithsonian Women's Committee, and the AMB Foundation.

International meeting held at Euchee House

Euchee House/*Richard Grounds*
Pictured above from left to right are Euchee-speaking elders Maxine Barnett, Josephine Bigler with Mongolian lawyer Beasankhuu Oktyabri, translator Sarangerel Langstrand with Henry Washburn. Oktyabri visited the Euchee House in December 2011 as part of the International Visitor Leadership Program funded by the U.S. State Dept.

Dr. Richard Grounds
Euchee House Director

SAPULPA — An unusual meeting between a legal scholar from Mongolia and elders of the Euchee Nation took place Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2011 at the Euchee House located at 1010 S. Main in Sapulpa, Okla.

The meeting featured Mongolian lawyer Beasankhuu Oktyabri, who came as a guest of the U.S. Department of State through the International Visitor Leadership Program. He visited with former District Court Judge Patrick Moore at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Complex the day before to learn about the nation's judicial system.

Driver and Mongolian language translator, Sarangerel Langstrand, who was born in Mongolia and now resides in Colo., where she works for the U.S. State Department, accompanied Oktyabri. The work of the translator was required throughout the two-hour meeting since the legal scholar spoke both Mongolian and Russian languages but not English.

The other side of the conversation was presented in both the Euchee language and English by a unique group of Euchee elders including: Mary Watashe, Ann Holder, Maxine Barnett, Josephine Wildcat Bigler and Henry k'asA Washburn.

Beasankhuu visited the Euchee House in order to glean valuable information on the historical treatment and ongoing social and legal status of the United States' Indigenous Peoples. He will report what he has learned to the U.S. Department of State and to his home country of Mongolia.

The Euchee elders, all of which are in their 80s and 90s, meet daily at the Euchee House to teach the language and history of the Euchee people to younger generations. They are living encyclopedias full of knowledge of Euchee traditions and history and give generously of their time and expertise for the benefit of future generations.

Like other Euchee elders, those in attendance all grew up speaking their original tribal language. However, out of this group, due to boarding school experiences where Native American children were forbidden to speak their tribal tongues, only Barnett, Bigler and Washburn are still able to speak fluently today in their indigenous language. That makes them part of an elite but shrinking circle of first-language Euchee speakers that also includes Martha Squire of Coweta.

After the passing of Josephine Barnett Keith of Sapulpa during the last month there are now—in the entire world—only four remaining elders who are fully-fluent speakers of the Euchee language. The elite group sorely misses the recent loss of Keith who shared the gifts that grew from her Euchee language skills, her inexhaustible cultural knowledge and indefatigable spirit.

The unusual choice made by the elders is to actively pass the language on to future generations. Unlike many of the surrounding tribes, they are not allowing the spoken language to end with their passing. The state of Oklahoma has already witnessed the loss of 14 languages, including Modoc, Natchez and Tonkawa that are thought to have no fully-fluent speakers anywhere. Other languages that have fallen silent in Okla., include Mesquakie (Fox), Cayuga and Seneca although they still have fluent speakers outside of the state. Languages that were once spoken within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation include: Alabama, Mikasuki, Cushatta and Hitchiti.

Interestingly, the Euchee language that elders carry in their minds and hearts is, in fact, a unique language called a "language isolate" by linguists. Of the 24 indigenous languages that are still spoken within Okla., only Euchee is not part of a larger group of sister languages such as the Muskogean, Siouan, Algonkian, Caddoan or Iroquoian language families.

This fact makes the meeting between a Mongolian lawyer and Euchee speaking elders all the more rare as the elders are bearers of knowledge that is not known any place else on earth.

The extremely positive contribution being made by the elders is to work daily at the Euchee House to grow new, younger fluent speakers of the Euchee language. They have developed eight new adult speakers who are competent teachers of the Euchee language. They, in turn, teach the language to younger community members.

The Euchee House currently conducts daily after-school classes for over 30 children and youth using immersion methods where enjoyable learning activities are done in the Euchee language.

During the meeting, Oktyabri and Euchee elders covered a range of topics centering on the value of cultural diversity, the importance of minority languages and stories of oppression. Oktyabri spoke of his homeland where he leads a legal research center in the Capitol of Ulaanbaatar, where it is currently 30 degrees below zero.

During the time of Genghis Khan, the Mongolian Empire became the largest contiguous land empire in human history. In modern times, the state of Mongolia was created under the United Nations and preserved from the control of neighboring Russia and China. The present nation of Mongolia is more than twice the land area of Texas. However, when it achieved independence a half-century ago, it had only a population the size of Tulsa scattered over the enormous land area.

Euchee elders discussed stories of Removal from the old homeland on the Trail of Tears in the 1830s. Bigler told of her grandfather's participation 100 years ago in the armed resistance to breaking up tribal lands that was led by Chitto Harjo (known as Crazy Snake). Holder explained more recent political history concerning the Euchee community in the 1990s.

The international visitors were impressed with the positive work of the elders to create new Euchee speakers in Sapulpa and surrounding areas, despite many challenges. The ongoing work at the Euchee House will be featured in their final report to the U.S. State Department.

College of the Muscogee Nation calls for public commentary for accreditation

Media Release
College of the Muscogee Nation

OKMULGEE — The College of the Muscogee Nation is seeking comments from the public about the college in preparation for its periodic evaluation by its regional accrediting agency.

The CMN will host a visit May 21-23, 2012, with a team representing the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association.

The team will review the institution's ongoing ability to meet the Commission's Criteria for Accreditation.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding the college via mail to:

Public Comment on College of the Muscogee Nation, The Higher Learning Commission, 230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500, Chicago, IL 60604-1411

The public may also submit comments on the Commission's Web Site at www.ncahlc.org.

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs and must be must be in writing.

All comments must be received by April 21, 2012.

TU to host Native American Pre-Law Day March 3, 2012

Media Release
University of Tulsa College of Law

TULSA — The University of Tulsa College of Law will sponsor a Native American Pre-Law Day on Saturday, March 3, 2012 from 8:15 a.m.-5:30 p.m., to encourage Native American senior high school and early college students to consider a career in law.

Sessions will focus on how to prepare for law school, what law school is like (from student perspective), how to apply to law school, etc. Guests will also have an opportunity to observe a mock law class taught by Professor Bill Rice, Co-Director of Tulsa's Native American Law Center.

American Indian college and senior high school students are invited to attend. A limited number of scholarships are available to assist with travel costs for students outside easy driving distance of Tulsa.

Participants will have the opportunity to see whether law school is the right fit for them. They will learn how to prepare now for a future career in Law. Prominent Native American attorneys will discuss their backgrounds and careers, law school representatives will provide information about the law school admissions process and how to finance a legal education, current Indian law students will tell what law school is really like, and Indian law professors will provide guidance on how to prepare for law school.

This workshop, which is funded by the Law School Admissions Council and co-hosted by Oklahoma City University School of Law, the University of Oklahoma College of Law, and the University of Tulsa College of Law, is designed to heighten awareness about the numerous benefits associated with DiscoverLaw.org registration.

Space is limited, and registration is on a first come/first serve basis. Please register in advance. Walk-ins are welcomed only as space permits. email the information to lawadmissions@utulsa.edu or call (918) 631-2406 by Feb. 21, 2012.

Following the Native American Pre-Law Day, all attendees of the pre-law event are invited to tour the Enduring Spirit exhibit of Native American art and artifacts at Gilcrease Museum from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Shuttles will depart the TU campus at 4 p.m., for those who wish to be transported to and from the museum.

For more information, call (918) 631 - 2406.

Cancer Care Community Education offered in Holdenville through Feb.

Media Release
MCN Division of Health

HOLDENVILLE—Every Tuesday and Thursday, beginning Jan. 17, 2012, the Native Navigators will host cancer continuum sessions at the Holdenville Indian Community Center located at 224 E. Poplar St., in Holdenville.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Health will be hosting educational seminars on cancer: prevention, early detection, survivorship and comfort/care. The project is subcontracted with Native American Cancer Research to conduct the Native Navigators and Cancer Continuum Project.

The project aims to increase cancer knowledge among the community participants, enhance the visibility and availability of the local Navigators who are available to help community members schedule screening appointments, carry out follow-up recommendations, and provide support and education for those diagnosed with cancer.

Trained patient navigators will conduct community-based cancer education seminars in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. All types of cancer will be covered and the workshops are open participation. A total of 24 hours of training will be offered.

The classes will be offered every Tuesday and Thursday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Participants will be evaluated pre- and post-seminar. A summary of results will be provided to the community and participants after the workshops are completed. In March the next education series will begin in another area of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation area.

For more information, please contact Kathy Cole at (918) 441-6048, Loretta Denny at (918) 441-6049 or Debra Isham, the Project Director at 1-855-623-1189.

Cancer Care Community Education Calendar
Time: 6-8 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays

Early' Detection:
Thursday, Jan. 26, 2012
Get on the Path to Breast Health

Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2012
Get on the Path to Colon Health

Thursday, Feb. 2, 2012
Get on the Path to Lung Health

Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2012
Get on the Path to Cervix Health

Thursday, Feb. 9, 2012
Get on the Path to Prostate Health

Survivorship:
Tuesday, Feb. 14
Native American Cancer Education for Survivors

Thursday, Feb. 16, 2012
Side Effects (NACES)

Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2012
Survivors' Support Circles

Comfort/ Preventative Care:
Thursday, Feb. 23, 2012
Wills & Advance Directive

Everyone 18 years or older will receive a $10 gift card after each session for participation.

Summer Youth 2012

Accepting Applications: December 19 through March 2.
Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Youth Employment Program.

To apply call 918 732.7775 or 7776
Or 1800 482-1979 ext. 7775 or 7776

Deadline to get all the paperwork in to the office is March 16, 2012
No fax applications will be accepted. Must be a member of a Federally recognized tribe and between the ages of 16 and 21.

Muscogee Nation News

Feb. 15, 2012
Vol. 42, Issue 4

Official semi-monthly publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Principal Chief takes message to state democrats

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKLAHOMA CITY — Inclusion not exclusion.

That's how Principal Chief George Tiger wants relations between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the state government of Oklahoma to take place. That was his focus as he addressed a lunchtime meeting of the Democratic Caucus at the State Capitol Feb. 7, 2012.

"Tribes and tribal governments in particular are wanting to work with the State Legislature in terms of inclusion and not exclusion because we feel like there are some issues that they have on their agenda that we need to have some type of input in," Tiger said.

Among the issues tackled by Tiger, were Governor Mary Fallin's decision to abolish the state Indian Affairs Commission in favor of a single liaison position, the lack of funding for the American Indian Cultural Center and Museum and finally, the tribal water rights lawsuit filed by the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes.

The Democratic Caucus gave Tiger no particular reaction on the liaison position, "Without that, especially the smaller ones, are at a loss as to what the agendas are and what legislation may affect the tribes, and so, it is important that we have input about the liaison. As far as a Cabinet-level position, certainly it's always been encouraged by tribes, but we feel we needed to be included in the selection process for that office."

MNN/Gary Fife

Pictured above is Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger on the floor of the Oklahoma State Capitol.

The unfinished American Indian Cultural Center and Museum in Oklahoma City is as issue that remains unresolved. If we're not able to finish that cultural center and museum, Tiger said, it reflected negatively on the state of Oklahoma. Both parties in the legislature should be supportive of the project,

"I kind of reminded them, as tribal governments and tribal members, we're Oklahomans, too. So we have an interest, both sides of the aisle," he said.

With Oklahoma license tags bearing the motto "Native America," Tiger agreed that the words rang hollow, "I think so. I believe that's something that has always been kind of gnawing, for lack of a better term, with tribal governments.

SEE DEMOCRATS - 2

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MCN Web site to be updated, seeks feedback

Media Release
MCN Communications Dept.

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Communications Department is redesigning the website to make it more functional. As part of the redesign, the department is seeking input from citizens regarding usability. Feedback will be used to create a more user-friendly site.

Would you like to submit job applications online? Check the status of your claim with the housing department? Change the name on your roll card from your maiden name or update your address? Have other suggestions or comments about the website? Let us know via email at jslane@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

Mvto! For more information, call (918) 732-7720 or contact us by mail at:

C/O MCN Communications
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447

Tiger issues executive orders; reinstates Duck Creek and Eufaula communities

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE — In his Jan. 28, 2012 State of the Nation address, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger expressed his intention to rescind executive orders 10-19 and 10-20 and restore the charters of the Duck Creek and Eufaula Communities.

Tiger issued executive orders 12-01 on Feb. 3, 2012, and 12-02 on Feb. 6 2012. According to the purpose listed on the orders, "The Principal Chief has the fundamental responsibility to faithfully execute and uphold the laws of the Nation in such manner as prescribed by the Constitution and laws passed by the National Council."

Executive order 12-01, states, "the Controller of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is ordered to return all non-gaming financial resources, funds, records, assets, contracts, bank accounts, bank records, computers, hard drives and all other property or documents of any nature owned by the Duck Creek Indian Community by Feb. 6, 2012 at 12 p.m."

The return of property to the Duck Creek Indian Community Smoke Shop will go into effect Feb. 13, 2012.

Reconciliation of the Smoke Shop accounts must be completed by Feb. 10, 2012 at 5 p.m. The Controller must also make all the necessary steps to ensure that final payroll and benefits are distributed to the tribal employees of these businesses by this same time and date.

Executive order 12-02, States that "the Controller of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is ordered to return all non-gaming financial resources, funds, records, assets, contracts, bank accounts, bank records, computers, hard drives and all other property or documents of any nature owned by the Eufaula Indian Community by Feb. 6, 2012 at 12 p.m."

The return of property to the Eufaula Indian Community Smoke Shop and Skate Zone will go into effect Feb. 13, 2012.

Reconciliation of the Skate Zone and Smoke Shop accounts must be completed by Feb. 10, 2012 at 5 p.m. The Controller must also make all the necessary steps to ensure that final payroll and benefits are distributed to the tribal employees of these businesses by this same time and date.

MCN Citizenship Board to host public hearing March 8, 2012

Media Release
MCN Citizenship Office

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Board, under the authority granted by (M(C) NCA) Title 7, § 2-109 A, has created policies and procedures.

The purpose of the policies and procedures is to provide an administrative framework for internal operational procedures, including, but not limited to: rules for the review of citizenship applications, for hearings and appeals, and such other purposes necessary for the efficient performance of the MCN Citizenship Board's operations.

A public hearing will be held March 8, 2012 from 6-7 p.m., at the Mound Building Auditorium to discuss these policies and procedures.

Prior to the public hearing, a copy of the policies and procedures will be available for review at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Office located at the Capitol Complex in Okmulgee. Okla.

For more information, contact the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Office at (918) 732-7753.

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Democrats give Tiger warm reception

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Family Violence Prevention Program adds position focused on teen dating violence

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Rowena Tarpalechee

MNN 6 - FEATURE

National Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

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Summer Youth 2012

Muscogee Nation News
STAFF

Manager - Gerald Wofford
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Editorial Assistant - Gary Fife
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Editorial statements appearing in ***The Muscogee Nation News***, guest columns and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of ***The Muscogee Nation News,*** its advisors or the tribal administration and are subject to editorial discretion. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Please contact our office for deadline of submissions to be considered for inclusion. ***The Muscogee Nation News*** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate ***The Muscogee Nation News*** in any regard.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed from Stigler, Okla., to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

TO CHANGE OR SUBMIT AN ADDRESS, PLEASE CALL (918) 732-7720 or send e-mail to: wmurphy@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

Democrats give Tiger warm reception

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

MNN/*Archives*

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tax Commissioner and State Rep. Jerry McPeak shared Principal Chief George Tiger's concerns regarding the unique relationship of tribes in the state of Oklahoma.

OKLAHOMA CITY — The caucus was impressed with Principal Chief George Tiger, in the words of Oklahoma State House Minority Caucus Chair, Rep. Jerry McPeak.

McPeak represents Okla., District 13, comprised of Muscogee and Wagoner counties. He said, the Chief's message was "right on target" and reflected well on the tribe.

In responding to the issues cited by Tiger, the McPeak said he shared the same concerns, starting with the abolishment of the state Indian Affairs Commission by Gov. Mary Fallin.

"I'm concerned that the governor is going to appoint the Indian person that represents all of us. Now, who is that appointee going to be responsible to? That's my concern. Is that appointee going to be responsible to the Indians, or is that appointee going to be responsible to the governor? I see some problems with allegiance a little bit. If we're going to have it that way, I wish we'd hurry up and get one appointed. Obviously, that hasn't happened since we did it, so my question is, 'why not?" McPeak asked.

As far as the American Indian Cultural Center and Museum in Oklahoma City, McPeak thinks it's a matter of the state government not holding up it's end of the bargain, "The tribes have done what they said they'd do, and now the government is not doing what they said they'd do. It's just that simple."

He later emphasized that the project would be an economic boost for the state.

The friendly relationship between tribes and the Democratic Party is something McPeak recognized.

He believes the Republicans on other side of the aisle can learn, but that it will be a challenge, "His (Tiger's) point about educating the people, that's the most disturbing thing for me. I thought Oklahoma knew about Indians, really knew about them. My gosh, it's amazing. You'd think you were in New York or something. I mean, the teepees and whatever it is, it's amazing how little they know, and how little they appreciate what we're trying to do. Too often, what they say, and what they do, doesn't match."

When asked about the phrase "Native America" on Okla., license plates when compared to the state government's actions, McPeak agreed that was a conflict, "I think the word, 'rings hollow,' is absolutely on target. That's absolutely true. 'Native America', but then, how do we act? Again, it goes back to the same thing. What we do speaks so loudly, I can't hear what you say. That's the case right there."

Tiger's visit to the State Capitol was a 'step in the right direction', McPeak concluded and it put a positive image for the nation in the minds of the democrats, something that would serve the tribe well in future legislative debates.

> "The tribes have done what they said they'd do, and now the government is not doing what they said they'd do."
> — Rep. Jerry McPeak

Democrats
Continued from Page 1

The state of Oklahoma wants to be recognized as a Native American state, but, in essence, when it comes down to issues, that's not the scenario."

For decades, the majority of most Native American voters and governments have aligned themselves with the Democratic Party. That is also something that met with his assessment, "I think if we're in favor of any party in the state of Oklahoma, it's with the Democrats. They've always been very supportive of our issues, our causes and I don't see that changing," Tiger said.

A relationship with the Republicans will be a matter of education, he said, "I think the problem that we have is we need to educate the Republican Party about how we're unique people, we're unique as far as the tribal government, but more important, how unique we are in terms of the impact we have as far as the economy of the state of Oklahoma is concerned. Collectively, we are the largest employers in the state of Oklahoma. Those are things that they need to understand and recognize because they are important when it comes to agenda items here on the floor that they consider," he said.

Tiger has accepted an invitation from the Republican side of the legislature and said he'll be delivering the same message to them.

New judge sworn in, first Euchee to be named to judgeship

MNN/*Gerald Wofford*

Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court Judge Greg Bigler shakes hands with Principal Chief George Tiger at the Glenpool Indian Community Center after being sworn in on Saturday, Feb. 4, 2012.

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

GLENPOOL — Greg Bigler was sworn as a new District Court judge for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation in ceremonies Sat., Feb. 4 in Glenpool.

Principal Chief George Tiger did the honors amongst a full house of citizens at the Glenpool Indian Community Center. Bigler was confirmed by the National Council in the early part of Feb.

Bigler is the first Euchee to be appointed to the District Court and is part of Tiger's effort to develop a more inclusive representation in the Creek administration and workforce.

That is something, Bigler said, that has not gone unnoticed, "We've been part of this confederacy for a long time. We really appreciate him showing that consideration and keeping that in his mind as he moves forward. We're very aware of that and very happy to see that."

As he assumes his new post, he said the goal of the judicial branch will be to focus more on specific dispute resolution among Creek citizens, a mission that had gotten somewhat lost on the past court's agenda, "We have perhaps, a narrower focus. We have to focus on court cases and providing those traditional services to the members. If there's other things that need to get done. . . over into the Executive Branch or the Council they need to make those decisions. We may have to resolve disputes between them on occasion, but we really want to keep a focus on what our core mission happens to be."

A giveaway and raffles followed the formalities.

Letter to the Editor:

OKMULGEE — Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter to express my sincere appreciation to Ken Davis from the Veterans Affairs office. Mr. Davis assisted me in filing an application to increase my VA disability benefits a few years ago but that attempt was unsuccessful. He contacted me out of the blue this summer ready to resubmit my application and I was notified in December that my benefits had been increased! As a full-blood citizen it makes me very proud to see people like Mr. Davis who work so hard for our tribal citizens! Mr. Davis and Veteran's Affairs Staff, a big thank you for all your hard work and for all you do for our Muscogee veterans!

Sincerely,
Amos Partridge
United States Army, Retired

Administration extends requests for resumes

Media Release
MCN Office of the Principal Chief

OKMULGEE — Principal Chief George Tiger has a new vision for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that includes upholding traditional Muscogee ways and values while at the same time elevating the Nation's government and business operations to unprecedented levels of effectiveness, accountability and service.

To accomplish this ambitious vision, we need to fill multiple leadership positions across the Nation's administrative, health, education, social services, law enforcement, judiciary, and business operations.

Potential candidates should possess the following:

- Experience
- Education
- Proven track record of leadership and accomplishment
- Demonstrate a winning attitude
- Work well in a team environment
- Strong commitment to the Administration's vision and goals for the Muscogee (Creek) people

If you meet the qualifications...

Submit your resume or C.V. to LSpaulding@MekkoTiger.com and include the following:

- Experience
- Skills in field of endeavor
- Explanation of why you feel you are a good fit for this tribal administration

Attach examples of your winning attitude, how you have made a difference, your leadership successes and how you have worked well in a team environment to achieve ambitious goals and a shared vision.

All positions are subject to Muscogee (Creek) Nation and Native American hiring preference.

Ce'puyacetos ce!

For more information visit the website at www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov.

Family Violence Prevention Program adds position focused on teen dating violence

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE —The Family Violence Prevention Program recently added a new position focused on youth dating violence. Youth Advocate Mitzi Pope was hired to fill this position after a need to address this issue arose.

"Before Mitzi came on, I did a panel discussion in the dorms at Eufaula headed by a couple of survivors who were in abusive relationships as teenagers. The response from that showed me we needed someone to do this full time," said Family Violence Coordinator Shawn Partridge.

Pope has only been in the Youth Advocate position since July, but she has already built a demand for her services in the surrounding communities. "Just in the last week, I saw 60 kids at Wilson Schools in one day, so almost their entire high school. I also saw like three different groups of high school students with about 25 in each group."

Partridge reinforced the importance of Pope's work. "Her being involved this way might be the first opportunity these youth have to hear about what a healthy relationship is. We find that a lot of times, it is an issue that gets taken for granted."

A big part of the program's prevention work involves giving informative presentations to area schools on teen dating violence. "I've gone to Holdenville, Okemah, Lone Star, and Wilson schools, and the Eufaula Dorm," said Pope.

Pope's curriculum, called 'Safe Dates', is an evidence based prevention program designed to inform youth about relationships. "There are nine sessions, and sometimes I just have time to do one or two. The first session covers what healthy relationships are and what they look like. After that we immediately move into harmful behaviors, and how they can turn into dating abuse," she said.

Pope continued to describe her curriculum. "We also cover how to help somebody in an abusive relationship. So, if they have a friend or family member that is in an abusive situation, we tell them how to handle that. We also tell them where they could go for help if they find themselves in an abusive relationship."

The program is very comprehensive, and deals with a broad range of factors that affect the way teens view relationships. "We look at gender stereotypes, and how the media portrays men and women and their role in our society. We talk about where they get their idea of what a relationship looks like. Whether these ideas come from music, magazines, books, or movies. We talk about all those things so they can identify a healthy relationship from an unhealthy one within these media," Pope said.

Pope also uses these examples in pop culture to present information on teen dating violence in a way that interests the youth. "A lot of them look at the couple from the 'Twilight' series for instance. We try to identify the harmful things, then maybe the more caring things that might be in that relationship."

This connection through pop culture is also used in addressing one issue specifically. "Mitzi does a presentation on sexting; we're finding that this is such a big issue right now. MTV has done a really good documentary on this issue. We just got the agreement back, so we should be able to order and use it in our presentations soon," said Partridge.

Sexting is commonly defined as sending sexually themed content such as messages or photographs, often by cellular phone. Sexting involving minors is a felony in Okla., and punishable by a fine in an amount up to $10,000, imprisonment up to 10 years, or by both fine and imprisonment.

Pope continued by emphasizing just how important it is to inform teens about this issue. "Sexting and digital dating violence are very hot topics for teens because their world is mostly all digital. Almost all the youth have cell phones and Facebook accounts. When I ask them, 'Have you heard of sexting?' they say they have heard of it, but really don't know what it is, and what the law is."

Pope and Partridge also use other outlets to raise awareness. "We went to Okemah and Holdenville football games, in both instances they happened to be playing Morris. We had them read a little script before the game and at halftime about our program, dating violence, and the rate of dating violence in Okla. over the loudspeaker. It was nice because everyone in town comes to those games," said Pope.

The ladies used their multifaceted approach toward prevention within the games as well. "We also set up tables where we had giveaways, but they had to fill out a quiz about dating violence first. I was shocked because the children didn't know a lot about dating violence, but they really wanted to know more. They were surprised how many of their peers were involved in these things," said Pope.

In recognition of Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, on Valentine's Day, Pope and Partridge plan to split up, and return to Holdenville and Okemah. Over the students' lunch periods they will encourage them to pledge against dating violence. Each of them will set up tables and meet with students over the schools' lunch hours.

"We are going to have the pledge read over the morning announcements. If the youth want to come and take the pledge, they will sign a paper saying that they took it, and then they will get a bracelet," said Pope.

The Family Violence Program is reapplying for their federal grant this year. "When we rewrite this new grant in a month or so, it is possible we will add on another advocate position. I would like to have just one person that can focus on nothing but prevention-type work," said Partridge.

Pope also stated her plans for the future within the program. "I'm trying to get to where I go to a school, and maybe see the entire eighth grade in a week or a day. The nation is huge, so there are a lot of youth out there that need to hear this stuff. I hope that more people call and want me to come out, because it's free. The children need to hear the information."

Their program is allowed to cover the prevention of violence against women in rural areas within Muscogee (Creek) Nation territory.

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

TAKE THE PLEDGE!

I PLEDGE:

To ALWAYS treat my dating partner with RESPECT, NEVER HURT my partner physically, verbally, or emotionally, NOT be controlling or Manipulative, And to ACCEPT Responsibility for my actions.

TAKE A MOMENT AND PLEDGE

February 2012

- Post the Pledge to your FACEBOOK or TWITTER page
- Email the Pledge to your co-workers
- Text the pledge to your friends

BREAK THE SILENCE. BE PART OF THE SOLUTION.

For more information or to request a presentation about Dating Violence, please contact Mitzi Pope, Youth Advocate, with Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program at 1 (800) 521-5432.

CREEK NATION COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

OKMULGEE — February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.

The MCN Family Violence Prevention program is asking Muscogee teens to take the pledge to always treat their dating partners with respect.

Teens should post the pledge to their Facebook or Twitter page, email the pledge to coworkers and text the pledge to friends.

"Break The Silence. Be Part of the Solution."

For more information, or to request a presentation about dating violence, please contact Mitzi Pope, Youth Advocate with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program at 1-800-521-5432.

TCIC to host youth Valentine's Day parties in Feb.

TULSA — Tulsa Creek Indian Community will host two Valentine's Day youth parties to be held at the community center located at 8611 S. Union Ave., in Tulsa.

For youth ages 7 -12, a party will be Friday, Feb. 17 from 6-9 p.m. For youth ages 2 -18, the event will be Saturday, Feb. 18 from 7-10 p.m.
Both events will feature video and board games, music, food and entertainment. For more information, call (918) 298-2464. Transportation for the event is available.

MFSI to host Harvest Meal Feb. 17

SAPULPA — Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative will host a Harvest Meal in the Sapulpa Feb. 17, 2012 at the Sapulpa Indian Community Center located at 1020 North Brown Street in Sapulpa, beginning at 4 p.m.

MFSI will provide the meal, and community members are welcome to bring their favorite dish and a family member. The event will feature free garden seeds, door prizes and fun for all ages.

MFSI Education and Policy Coordinator Rita Williams will have a presentation on "Growing Healthy Communities" at this free event.

The goal of MFSI is to spark an interest in the youth to garden and sell their produce at a local farmers market and to encourage elders to container garden while sharing their stories with the youth.

Other events hosted by MFSI this month include:

- Feb. 17 - 4 p.m. - Youth and Elder Harvest Meal - Sapulpa Indian Community Center
- Feb. 19 - 1 p.m. - Pumpkin Seed Saving and Cooking Class - Wilson Indian Community Center
- Feb. 26 - 1 p.m. - Cvtvhakv burning - Wilson Indian Community Center

Please RSVP with the MFSI Office (918) 756-5915 to Melody Reader (918) 752-6113, Stephanie Berryhill (918) 759-0817, or June Marshall (918) 752-6139.

Hickory Ground #1 hosts Indian taco sale Feb. 17

OKMULGEE — An Indian taco sale will be held Friday, Feb. 17 at the Human Development Building on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Capitol Complex from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. The price of $6 includes taco, dessert and drink.

Proceeds will go towards repairing the roof for Hickory Ground #1 Baptist Church. Delivery is available.

For more information, contact Roman Harjo at (918) 758-0323.

Bake sale and Native craft sale set for Feb. 25

SAPULPA — A bake sale and Native craft sale will be held Saturday, Feb. 25 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Sapulpa Library located at 27 W. Dewey.

The event will feature baked goods as well as bows, beadwork, and ribbon shirts/skirts. Barbecue sandwich, chips and a drink will be available for $5.

For more information, call (918) 852-6780.

Summer Youth application deadline set for March 16

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Summer Youth Employment Program is accepting applications for the upcoming year.

The deadline for submitting applications is March 16, 2012 at the Human Development Employment and Training Office.

For more information, please contact 918-732-7775 or 7776. You may also call 1-800-482-1979 ext. 7775 or 7776.

Applicants must be a member of a federally recognized tribe and between the ages of 16 and 21.

Parent Committee Grocery Bingo set for March 17

OKMULGEE — The OSU Parent Committee 2011-2012, is hosting a fundraiser bingo at Okmulgee Indian Community Center Sat. March 17.

Bingo starts at 1 p.m., with the food sale beginning at 11 a.m.

Most of the food items were donated by local businesses. Some of the items available will be homemade chili, desserts, chili-cheese hotdogs, Frito pies and popcorn.

We will also announce the winners of the Lucky Charm Contest.

For more information, contact the Parent Committee at (918) 304-0476 or (918) 752-1444 or by email at: lmbear@okstate.edu

Haikey Chapel hosts wild onion dinner March 17

TULSA — Haikey Chapel will host a wild onion dinner Saturday, March 17, 2012, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Adult dinners are $8 and a child's plate (10 and under) is $5. The church is located at 8815 E. 101st St., in Tulsa.

For more information, contact Sandra Chisholm via email at: sancrandall@yahoo.com

Little Cussetah UMC to host wild onion dinner March 24

SCHULTER — Little Cussetah United Methodist will host their annual wild onion dinner Saturday, March 24 beginning at 11 a.m. Dinners will be $7 for adults and $5 for children and include all-you-can-eat items such as salt meat, sofkey, drink and dessert.

For more information, check them out on Facebook at Little Cussetah UMC or contact Paul Tecumseh at (918) 270-0213 or Nelson Harjo at (918) 752-7731.

Concharty hosts wild onion dinner March 31

OKMULGEE — Concharty UMC will host a wild onion dinner will be Saturday, March 31, 2012, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Adult dinners are $8 and a child's plate (12 and under) is $6. The church is located at 19040 Garfield Road in Okmulgee.

For more information, call (918) 366-8450, email: info@kvncate.com or visit: www.kvncate.com

Sexual Assault Awareness Walk set for April 11

OKMULGEE — "Walk a Mile In Her Shoes" is the theme for the 2012 Sexual Assault Awareness Walk, set for April 11, 2012.

The event will begin at 1 p.m. at the MCN Mound building. It is sponsored by the MCN Family Violence Prevention Program.

For more information, contact Tina Qualls at (918)-813-6900 or email tqualls@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

Language fair deadline set for March 12

Media Release
Sam Noble Museum

NORMAN—Students of Native American languages from preschool to high school age are encouraged to enter the 10th annual Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair, scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, April 2 and 3, at the Sam Noble Museum in Norman. Participants in grades pre-K through 12 will demonstrate their language skills as groups or individuals in the spoken language and language in song categories.

Other competition categories include poster art and book categories, open to grades three through 12; language with PowerPoint presentation and film/video categories, both open to sixth- through 12th-graders; a language advocacy essay category, open to grades nine through 12; and a language masters performance category for grades nine through 12, designed to showcase the language skills of students who have grown up speaking a Native American language. A new category for 2012 is poetry writing and performance; it is open to all ages. Registration deadline is March 12.

The competition draws more than 600 participants from across Oklahoma as well as neighboring states competing in as many as 27 Native American languages. Pre-K through fifth-grade competitions will take place on Monday, April 2; sixth- through 12th grade competitions are set for Tuesday, April 3. The top three award-winners in each age group and category will receive a trophy that can be displayed at their school or tribal center. Every student who participates will receive a medallion and Language Fair T-shirt. For the 10th anniversary, every student also will receive a 2012 calendar with poster art for the last 10 years in addition to other language prizes. Fair participants will be honored at the state capitol on Monday, April 9, and all students and programs are invited to attend.

A panel of elders and teachers from several different tribes will judge the spoken language and language in song competitions. Native artists will judge the posters based on creativity and use of this year's theme, "Language in My Heart." In addition, Native authors will judge the book and poetry competitions.

To register and for additional information, visit http://nal.snomnh.ou.edu/onaylf. Deadline for registration is Monday, March 12. PowerPoint presentations, films, books, poetry, and poster entries must be received by March 16. No late entries will be accepted.

To have forms sent by mail, or for additional information, participants may contact the museum's Native American Languages department at (405) 325-7588 or by email at ONAYLF@snomnh.ou.edu. The 2011 Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair is made possible, in part, by the Boeing Company and the Cyril Foundation.

The Sam Noble Museum is located on the University of Oklahoma Norman campus at Timberdell Road and Chautauqua Avenue. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is $5 for adults, $4 for seniors 65 and up, and $3 for youth ages 6 to 17.

For more information about the museum, call (405) 325-4712, or visit the museum's website at www.snomnh.ou.edu.

MCN Citizenship Office updating death records

Media Release
MCN Citizenship Office

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Office is asking family members of deceased citizens to contact our office in order to update the deceased citizens' information. The office is also requesting the original state certified fill image death certificate of the citizen.

The original document will be returned. This is in response to the Citizenship Office's efforts to update the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's files.

For more information, please contact the office at (918) 732-7941.

MORTGAGE DOWN PAYMENT & CLOSING COST PROGRAM

FIRST TIME HOMEBUYER EDUCATION CLASS

Because many Native American families find it difficult or overwhelming to purchase their first home The Mortgage Down Payment and Closing Cost Program is offering a first time homebuyer education class which will help prepare our Native American families for the road to homeownership.

The Homebuyer Class will feature guest speakers knowledgeable in the various aspects of buying a home. From credit and loans to finding the right house and finalizing the deal.

UNDERSTANDING CREDIT AND CREDIT SCORES	Mr. David Showalter Data Facts
LOANS	Mr. Jon Kennedy, Loan Officer Bank 2
REAL ESTATE	Ms. Shelly Rivera, Realtor, Keller-Williams,
ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS	Mr. James Williams Environmental Specialist II MCN Environmental Dept.
INSURANCE	Phyllis Little Martin AMERIND Risk Services
CLOSINGS	Ms. Debbie Haynes, Closer OLT Real Estate Closing Co.

March 24th, 2012
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

FOR PRE-ENROLLMENT CONTACT
LADONNA NORTHCROSS
918-549-2554, M-F 8AM-5PM

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OBITUARIES

NEVILLE DE ROIN BARNES

WETUMKA — Neville De Roin Barnes a resident of Wetumka passed away Dec. 29, 2011 at the age of 42.

He was born March 2, 1969 to Amanda Yahola and Sidney Barnes in Wetumka, Okla.

He was raised in Dallas, Texas, moved to Wetumka his senior year, graduated then moved back to Dallas and graduated from a technical school.

He loved watching the Dallas Cowboys and OU football. He also enjoyed cooking out and spending time with friends and family.

He was preceded in death by grandmothers, Lucille Harjo, Lela Barnes; Grandfathers, Norman Harjo, Denny Yahola, Thomas Barnes; three Aunts, three uncles; one nephew Josh Sanchez; two nieces Jenny and Carol Yahola.

Neville is survived by parents Amanda and Harry Martinez of Wetumka; one sister Anita Sanchez and husband Henry Sanchez of Wetumka, one brother Lewis Yahola and wife Jennifer Yahola of Wetumka; adopted sister Zoe Anderson of Wetumka, two nieces Hilary Sanchez of Ada and Lainee Yahola of Wetumka; five nephews Travis and Terrence Yahola of Wetumka, Chris Flanagan of Wetumka, Henry Sanchez III of Konawa, Nicholas Sanchez of Dallas Texas; great nephew Chayden Spradlin; five aunts Josephine Anderson and Stella Bear and Mickie Deer of Wetumka, Ann Gibson and husband Melvin of Chickasha, Paula Herrod and husband Randy of Wetumka, Step Grandmother Susie Martinez of Wetumka.

Funeral services were held Jan. 2, 2012 at Salt Creek Indian Baptist Church in Wetumka with Rev. Mark Smith and Rev. David Dunson officiating.

Pallbearers were Asi Yahola, Duane Mooney, Steve Anderson, Maurice Yahola, Kenny Bird Johnson, Charlie Stewart.

Honorary Pallbearers were Rafe Blackshire and Jeff Yahola.

Burial followed the service at Salt Creek Indian Cemetery in Wetumka under the direction of Williamson-Spradlin Funeral Home in Wetumka.

LEAH MAE BILLEY

TULSA — Leah "Emochee" Mae Billey was born Feb. 17, 1929 in Okfuskee County, and departed from this life Sunday, Jan. 8, 2012 in Tulsa, Okla., at the age of 82.

Leah, the daughter of Hully and Lela (Butcher) Fixico, was a longtime resident of Paden. She married John Billey June 3, 1947, in Okemah, Okla. Leah was a homemaker and member of the Praries Springs Indina Baptist Church in Okemah.

Her husband, parents, two sons, Johnny Lee Billey and Glen Lee Billey; one sister, Ida Micco and aunt Ollie Conner, preceeded Leah in death.

Survivors include: daughter and son-in-law Lena and Bruce Deckard or Sparta, Mo., and grandchildren Amanda Toliver of Ozark, Mo., Leah Lowery of Fayetteville, N.C., April Reynolds of Tulsa, Mia Rigsby of Oklahoma City, Quinton Billey of Tulsa, Richard Miller of Shawnee, Bobby Billey of Shawnee, Christopher Thomas of Perkins and Shawn Thomas of Perkins, 11 great grandchildren and many other relatives.

TOMMY LOWE

RIO VISTA, Calif. — Tommy Lowe Formerly of Tiger Mountain, Okla., moved to Calif., in 1971 and made his home in Rio Vista.

Tommy peacefully passed away at the age of 67, after a three year bout with cancer, culminating in a short period of debilitation, on Feb. 6, 2012.

He is survived by his loving wife of 44 years, Jackie; three sons: Tommy Jr., of Post Falls, Ind., Ray and Sam of Vacaville, Calif.; five grandchildren: Alec, Elizabeth, Joshua, Kristen and Hailey; two sisters: Dorcas Tiger of Tiger Mountain, Okla., Abbie Davis of Dewar, Okla., two brothers: Hickman McIntosh of Dallas, Texas, Jerry Lowe of Eufaula, Okla.; Mother In Law, Lori Adams of Gilmer, Texas., two brothers-in-law; three sisters-in-law, three daughters-in-law and numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and many close friends.

He was rich in love and will be sorely missed.

Memorial services will be held at Silver Springs Baptist Church on Saturday, Feb. 25.

ROWENA TARPALECHEE

OKMULGEE — Rowena Tarpalechee, a resident of Okmulgee, passed away Monday, Jan. 16, 2012 at the age of 62. She was born Dec. 8, 1949 to Shawney, Sr., and Annie (Fulsom) Hardridge in Claremore, Okla.

On Nov. 28, 1971, she married Edward M. Tarpalechee in Morris,

Okla. She was a member of the Crosstown Pentecostal Church in Okmulgee and a member of the UMW at the Big Cussetah Methodist Church in Morris.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Shawney, Sr. and Annie Hardridge; brother, Lonnie Hardridge and niece, Cindy Watkins.

Survivors include her husband, Edward M. Tarpalechee of the home; five children, Brian Tarpalechee of Morris, Eddy Tarpalechee, Shera Tarpalechee, Darin Tarpalechee and Jay Tarpalechee, all of Okmulgee; four sisters, Nellie Whitten of Anderson, S.C., Janice O'Shields and husband, Jerry of Kellyville, Susanna Grayson of Okmulgee and Linda Watkins and husband, Dale of Anderson, S.C.; one brother, Shawney Hardridge of Freemont, Calif.; six grandchildren, Layna, Trevor, Anthony, Trenton, Brian, Jr., and Tori Tarpalechee and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts, uncles and other relatives.

Visitation was held Wednesday from 3-8 p.m. at the Shurden-Jackson Funeral Home in Okmulgee.

Wake Services were heald Wednesday from 6-8 p.m. at the Shurden-Jackson Funeral Home in Okmulgee.

Funeral Services were held at 1 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 19, 2012 at the Big Cussetah Methodist Church in Morris with Rev. Newman Frank officiating. Burial will follow the service at the Tarpalechee Family Cemetery in Okmulgee under the direction of the Shurden-Jackson Funeral Home in Okmulgee.

Pallbearers will Kirby Jennings, Chance Beasley, Nolan Grayson, Terry O'Shields, Cory Willis and Richard Morgan.

ELSIE ADALINE VAUGHN

BAKERSFIELD, Calif. — Our beloved mother, Muscogee (Creek) citizen, Elsie Adaline (Jones) Vaughn, born Jan. 6, 1920 to parents Alvin Hodge Orcutt and Lillian Beatrice Olsen, passed away Jan. 14, 2012.

We gratefully celebrated her 92nd Birthday this year. She was laid to rest next to our father, Delmer Eugene Jones, at Greenlawn Mortuary Southwest, Bakersfield, Calif.

Mother and dad had eight children: Mary H., Alvin E., Jim M., Jack L., Opal D., Gorden L., Geanie M. (Flores), and Ken L. Jones.

She had numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren. She will be greatly missed.

THANK YOU

The family of Rowena Tarpalechee would like to thank Rev. Newman Frank and Rev. Jimmy Alexander for their prayers and support in our time of need during her illness and at the funeral.

Thank you to the Big Cussetah Methodist church and the ladies for all the cooking. Also all those who came by. those who prayed for us and those who sent flowers.

Thank you to the Tribal Driveways and Social Services of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation for your help.

District Court filings for December 2011

The District Court filings from Dec. 1, 2011 through Dec. 31, 2011 are as follows:

Traffic:

MCN v. Linda West	Starting, Turning, Stopping without Regard to Safety
MCN v. Jason Brown	Expired Tag
MCN v. David Ellsworth	DUS
MCN v. David Vogtman	Disorderly Conduct
MCN v. Gregory McCurdy	Invalid Driver's License
MCN v. Derek Sumner	Expired Tag
MCN v. Sherry Brinkley	Expired Tag
MCN v. Tavares Walker	Disorderly Conduct
MCN v. Janet Neill	Disorderly Conduct

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE CREEK NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION HOUSING DIVISION (successor in interest to THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CREEK NATION OF OKLAHOMA),	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
v.	)	**Case No. CV-2011-203**
ANGELA MARIE SEARCY and TOBY LYNN SHEETS,	)	
Defendant.	)	

SERVICE OF SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA TO:

ANGELA MARIE SEARCY and

TOBY LYNN SHEETS.

GREETINGS:

Take notice that you and each of you have been sued in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee Division, in the above entitled and numbered cause by the Plaintiff, and that you must answer the Complaint filed by Plaintiff in the office of the undersigned Court Clerk on or before the 2nd day of March, ~~2011~~ 2012, or judgment against you and a decree in Plaintiff's favor will be rendered accordingly.

You are ordered to appear at the Courtroom of the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee, OK, on the 2nd day of February, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. for a forcible entry and detainer hearing and to remain subject to the call of the court until discharged.

Dated this 28th day of December, 2011.

Court Clerk
By: Shalon Millerwatha, Deputy

INGLISH & GAITHER, P.C.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
Henryetta, OK

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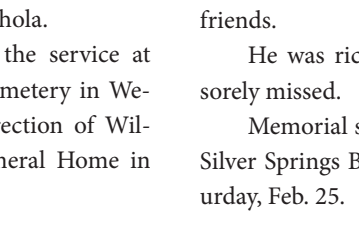

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PRESENTS

NATIVE WORDS, NATIVE WARRIORS

NOVEMBER 11, 2011 – FEBRUARY 29, 2012

"During World War I and World War II, hundreds of American Indians joined the United States armed forces and used words from their traditional languages as weapons…America's enemies never deciphered the coded messages they sent."

Smithsonian Institution

EXHIBITION AT MUSCOGEE VETERANS BUILDING
For more information contact
Muscogee Tourism & Recreation: 918-732-7992

Developed by the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service with generous support from Elizabeth Hunter Solomon, the Smithsonian Women's Committee, and the AMB Foundation.

Emvponayv

Gary Fife
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE — Yikes! A new study published in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition says American Indians who frequently ate "spam," had double the risk of developing diabetes compared to those who ate little to none. The processed, canned meat was a part of the commodities from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's food assistance program. Researchers surveyed Indians with an "average age of 35 from: Ariz., Okla., and North and South Dakota, fifty percent of American Indians develop diabetes by age 55," it said.

Still more bad news: all participants were free of diabetes and cardiovascular disease at the start of the study. Five years later, the researchers conducted a follow-up survey; 243 people had developed diabetes. "A lot of communities in this study are in very rural areas with limited access to grocery stores… and they want to eat foods that have a long shelf life," said the lead author and a researcher at the University of Washington School of Medicine, who grew up on a reservation near the Arctic Circle (A reservation near the Arctic Circle? I've been in that area in Alaska and there 'ain't no such animal! Villages? Yes. Reservations? Nope! Maybe Canada?).

Anyway, of those 500 who ate the most spam, 85 developed the disease.

Boy, I remember as a kid when a fried spam sandwich—or 'sammich' as we called it, was a real treat. Toss a chunk of commodity cheese on that sucker and you had a real feast and artery clogger. Even later in life, spam was frequently on my menu (mostly because it fit my budget!). All we worried about then was getting a 'commod bod' from all the starch and grease.

But wait. There's hope! A new project on the northern plains reports that Transcendental Meditation (TM) can help combat diabetes. Yup, that's the same TM that folks like the Beatles and Mia Farrow used. Local Ho-Chunk people report lowering their blood glucose and blood pressure levels by practicing the discipline. TM's most well-known leader was the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi. He was an 'Indian' too, but I don't think his tribe was federally recognized.

The entertainment industry just never learns.

Actor Lou Diamond Phillips, who has claimed 'Cherokee ancestry', has been cast as the Indian best friend in an upcoming TV series. Phillips will play Henry Standing Bear, the best friend of the TV sheriff. Author Craig Johnson who wrote the original material said the character is based on Marcus Red Thunder, a member of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe. Wasn't Standing Bear a Ponca? Johnson's "Longmire" mystery novels are set on a reservation in Wyo. The pilot was mainly shot in N.M., and the series, due to air on A&E, will be shot there as well.

Maybe the idiot who came up with Lou Diamond Phillips should have gotten a little birdshot in the backside, too. It might help him or her think a little clearer. With all the Native American talent now available, why this fake Indian? Wes Studi, or Adam Beach or maybe the werewolf guys from "Twilight"? There's no excuse for this in this day and age.

MCN sees first year of participation in national Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE — February is National Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. This is the first year for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's participation in this event.

The focus of this event is to raise awareness of, and encourage teens to pledge against dating violence.

The pledge states, "I will: always treat my girlfriend/boyfriend with respect, never harm them physically, verbally, or emotionally, not be controlling or manipulative in my relationship, and always accept responsibility for my actions."

Teens are encouraged to post the pledge on their Facebook or Twitter page, email the pledge to their coworkers, and text the pledge to their friends.

"We are doing more this time around because of the addition of Mitzi Pope our new Youth Advocate," said Family Violence Prevention Project Coordinator Shawn Partridge.

"Pope's position came about because of the newest grant to fund our Family Violence Program. We recognized the need because statistics on family violence for tribal people are shockingly high. We really like to start prevention early," said Partridge.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, American Indians are 2.5 percent more likely to experience sexual assault compared to all other races, and one in three American Indian women report that they have been raped in their lifetime.

Partridge pointed out that there are all kinds of examples of this type of violence in the media. One case they often cite in their presentations is the murder of Yeardley Love, the lacrosse player out east. Her boyfriend, who was also a lacrosse player, stands accused of murdering Love.

Partridge also cited an instance closer to home, the murder of tribal member Lisa Tiger's daughter, 18-year-old Shelleigh Poor Bear, by her boyfriend Enrique Pacheco.

MNN/*Sterling Cosper*

Pictured above are Tania Bardin with the Family Violence Prevention Program with Creek/Seminole filmmaker Sterlin Harjo, on a set for the Public Service Announcement shoot for Teen Violence Awareness Month. Cheyenne Burgess, the youth pictured above, is stating the teen violence pledge for the PSA

"The reports had said that she was at a friend's house and her boyfriend, who she had a child with, showed up and was trying to get her to leave with him. She didn't want to, so he pulled her by the hair, down the driveway. People came out and threatened to call the cops, so he got into the car and took off. He was already gone when the authorities arrived.

Pacheco called Poor Bear the next day saying he wanted to meet so they could make up. They met up at a hotel, and he ended up stabbing her repeatedly in the abdomen until she died," Partridge said.

Through their program, both Partridge and Pope have worked extensively and directly with teens in a variety of ways on the issue of teen dating violence. "It is really shocking the experiences the youth are having at such a young age. Youth dating violence is one of those issues that is often overlooked. Given all the statistics and working with the kids directly, you know that these are issues that need to be addressed," said Partridge.

Beyond their own work, Partridge wishes to point out that dating violence education begins with the parents. "I want you to highlight the importance of parents talking to their children about this type of issue. You know, about what a healthy relationship is, and really reinforce that they deserve to be in relationships that are healthy and make them feel good about themselves. Parents should tell the children to avoid relationships where they feel scared, and avoid somebody that puts them down," she said.

Partridge also acknowledged the difficulties parents face when addressing these topics with teens, but still encouraged their continued vigilance. "I think we miss a lot of opportunities to talk to them about relationships. I know these topics can be kind of uncomfortable."

A poster contest to raise awareness of Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month was held for the event, and the winners will be announced soon. "It's just kind of a cool project to get youth involved and see their thoughts on dating violence," said Partridge.

For more information on teen violence awareness or to request a presentation, contact Youth Advocate, Mitzi Pope with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program at 1 (800) 521-5432.

More information is also available online at www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention under the youth violence tab, or at www.loveisrespect.org

Summer Youth Employment Program helps create bright future for youth on bright summer days

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE — Enrollment has begun for the 2012 Summer Youth Employment Program. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Employment and Training Program began accepting applications Dec. 19, 2011 and will continue to do so through March 2, 2012.

"It's a great opportunity to get job skills and exposure to what the working world is like," said Youth Development Coordinator Cindy Russell. "The youth will gain some experience they can put on their resume by the time they graduate," stated Job Developer Nancy Mason.

According to Russell, the youth aren't the only ones that benefit from the program. "It also helps businesses in the community because the money is funneled through the nation, so the employers basically get a free employee for the summer."

The program is also expected to be beneficial for the Nation and parents as well. "It gives us really good contacts with the people out in the public. The parents also think it's great. When the kids get too old to participate, the parents are really disappointed," Russell stated.

Russell also commented on the change and growth the Summer Youth Program has seen over the years. "It has to have been almost 40 years, maybe a little less. When I first started working for the program I think we had about 250 kids, my next summer we had 500, and the one after that we had about 700. Last year we took 1,334 applications, but we could only put 800 to work."

Unlike years past, the youth are allowed to choose their employers. This change was made for a variety of reasons. "When I first started we found them a job, but now we let them find their own. The fact is they are going to have to do that when they get older anyway," said Russell.

Russell also pointed out the other benefits of this more reality-based structure. "Sometimes the kids say, 'I want to work at a daycare,' because they think they can just play all day and sleep. When you work at a daycare though, you're pretty much going all day. A lot of them have misconceptions about the jobs. So it really gives them a chance to see if they really want to go into these fields."

There is no shortage of variety for youth who wish to gain experience in their prospective career fields. "There have been so many jobs available: landscaping, hospitals, office work at the tribe, sports fields, water parks, the aquarium, we had a glass blowing company last year, bakeries, kitchens, hair salons, horse ranches, veterinarians, and zoos. No jobs in convenience stores or casinos though. We don't want them working with alcohol or tobacco," Russell stated.

The first day of actual work is Monday, June 4, 2012, and the program will run through Friday, July 27, 2012.

Youth must be between the ages of 16 and 21, and members of any federally recognized tribe. They must also live within MCN boundaries. Pending tribal applicants are also accepted with verification from the MCN Citizenship Office, stating that they have a pending application.

All positions are full-time. Payment for youth in the program is $7.25 per hour for high school students and $8.55 per hour for full-time college students.

High school students who complete the program can also expect to have full payment for their ACT provided tests the following school year.

Participants can use tribal or public transportation, but it is recommended they choose an employer close to their home or where they can consistently get a ride to and from work.

Employers can expect payment and workers' compensation for the youth to be covered by the tribe.

Interested youth should contact the Youth Employment Program at (918) 732-7775 for applications, and are encouraged to call on their own. The applications will be mailed to them, and must be returned to the Employment and Training division of Human Development office by Friday, March 2, 2012

Change a life.
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National Indian Child Welfare Association
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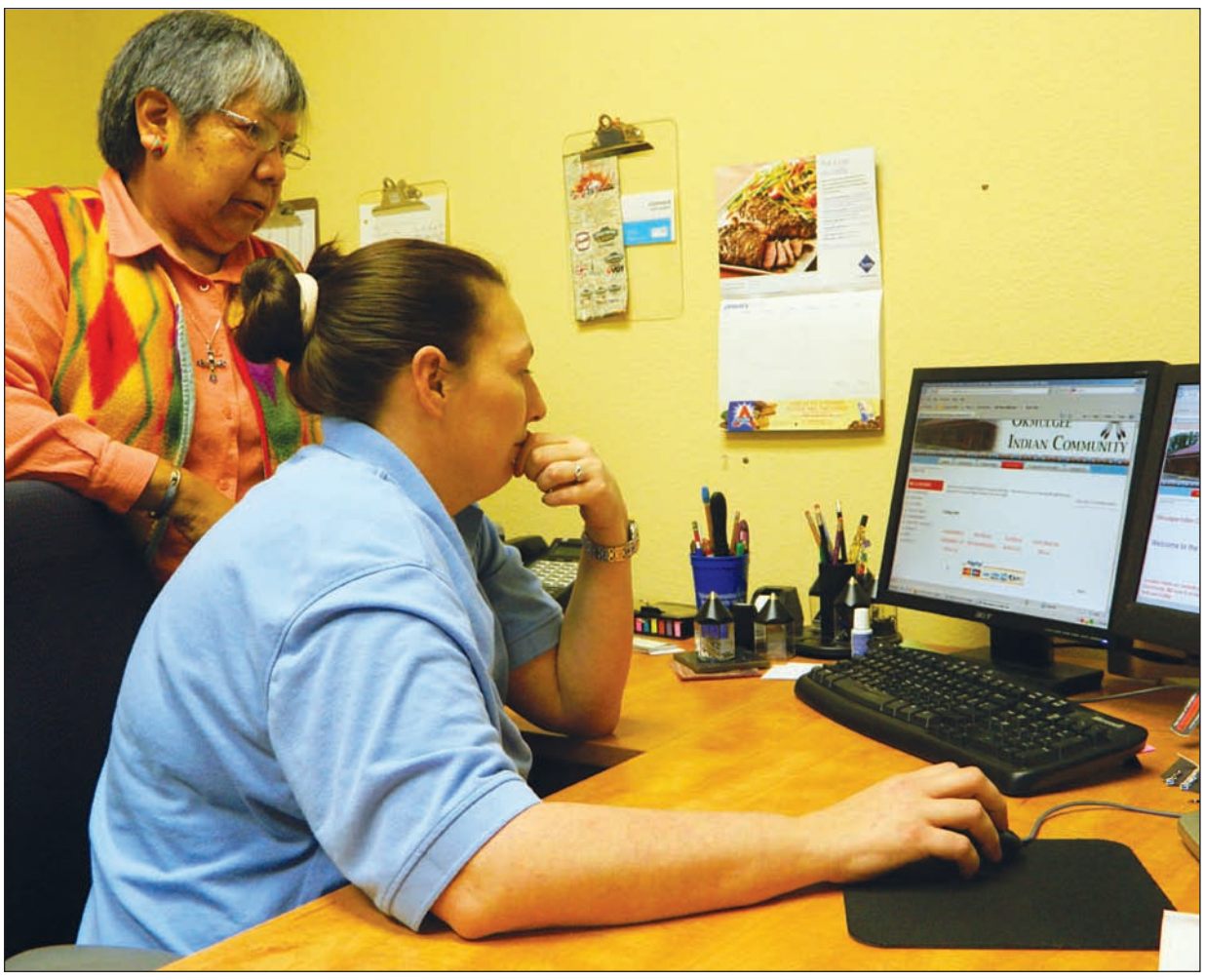
Preserve our heritage, become a foster/adoption parent today.
In the State of Oklahoma, there are Muscogee Creek Children in state and tribal custody looking for a place to call "cuko" (home).
Become a Foster/Adoptive tribal home.
For more information contact: Tammi Reed-Barnett
at (918)732-7883 OR email: tammirb@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

Okmulgee Indian Community adds Gift Shop Web site



MNN/*Gerald Wofford*

The Okmulgee Indian Community Gift Shop, located at 2850 S. Wood Dr., in Okmulgee, recently released a new Web site where users can browse the shop's Native craft items for sale. Pictured above are OIC Chairman Ester Gee and Ginni Hall.

Media Release
Okmulgee Indian Community

OKMULGEE — The Okmulgee Indian Community Gift Shop located next door to the community's smoke shop has reopened for business.

The OIC Gift Shop has also added a new website: http://www.oicgiftshop.com or a link can be found on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation website in the Community Services Division, under the Communities page.

The OIC Gift Shop's website features all the Native made arts and crafts currently available for sale in the store.

The Native craftsmen and women have been asked to sign a media release so that we are able to post their products on our website. The Gift Shop is actively taking new items on a consignment basis.

The OIC Smoke Shop and Gift Shop are economic enterprises of the Okmulgee Indian Community.

The OIC Smoke and Gift Shop is loacted at 2850 S. Wood Drive in Okmulgee. Follow OIC on Facebook at www.facebook.com/OICGiftShop

Holdenville Indian Community to elect Board of Trustees Chairperson

Media Release
Holdenville Indian Community

HOLDENVILLE — Holdenville Creek Indian Community will be taking nominations for the position of Chairperson of the Board of Trustees.

Nominations will be accepted beginning Friday, Feb. 17, 2012 at 8 a.m. until March 2, 2012 at noon.

The election for Chairperson of the Board of Trustees will be held Saturday, March 10, 2012 from 7 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Holdenville Creek Indian Community Center. Voters must be general members of the community in order to vote. Nominations may be submitted in a sealed envelope to the community secretary at 224 E. Poplar St., in Holdenville, Okla.

For more information, contact the Holdenville Creek Indian Community Center at (405) 379-3485.

"Visions of our Ancestors" calendars now available

Media Release
MCN Public Relations

OKMULGEE — a 2012 tribal calendar featuring images of historic leader Opoethleyahola, ceremonial dancers, a traditional Christian church and the College of the Muscogee Nation is now available for free distribution to Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizens.

The "Visions of Our Ancestors" 2012 calendar includes National Council Planning Sessions, monthly meeting dates, tribal events (such as the Muscogee Nation Festival and Council Oak Ceremony) and the birthdates of the Chief and Second Chief.

The wall calendar measures 13" x 19" and is suitable for home or office use. A larger 24" x 36" calendar is also available for use by community centers and churches. These calendars are available free of charge at the MCN Public Relations office at the tribal complex (no mail deliveries please). Distribution of the large calendars is limited to one per community or church.

For more information, contact MCN Public Relations at (918) 732-7617.

TU to host Native American Pre-Law Day March 3, 2012

Media Release
University of Tulsa College of Law

TULSA — The University of Tulsa College of Law will sponsor a Native American Pre-Law Day on Saturday, March 3, 2012 from 8:15 a.m.-5:30 p.m., to encourage Native American senior high school and early college students to consider a career in law.

Sessions will focus on how to prepare for law school, what law school is like (from student perspective), how to apply to law school, etc. Guests will also have an opportunity to observe a mock law class taught by Professor Bill Rice, Co-Director of Tulsa's Native American Law Center.

American Indian college and senior high school students are invited to attend. A limited number of scholarships are available to assist with travel costs for students outside easy driving distance of Tulsa.

Participants will have the opportunity to see whether law school is the right fit for them. They will learn how to prepare now for a future career in Law. Prominent Native American attorneys will discuss their backgrounds and careers, law school representatives will provide information about the law school admissions process and how to finance a legal education, current Indian law students will tell what law school is really like, and Indian law professors will provide guidance on how to prepare for law school.

This workshop, which is funded by the Law School Admissions Council and co-hosted by Oklahoma City University School of Law, the University of Oklahoma College of Law, and the University of Tulsa College of Law, is designed to heighten awareness about the numerous benefits associated with DiscoverLaw.org registration.

Space is limited, and registration is on a first come/first serve basis. Please register in advance. Walk-ins are welcomed only as space permits. email the information to lawadmissions@utulsa.edu or call (918) 631-2406 by Feb. 21, 2012.

Following the Native American Pre-Law Day, all attendees of the pre-law event are invited to tour the Enduring Spirit exhibit of Native American art and artifacts at Gilcrease Museum from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Shuttles will depart the TU campus at 4 p.m., for those who wish to be transported to and from the museum.

For more information, call (918) 631 - 2406.

Cancer Care Community Education offered in Holdenville through Feb.

Media Release
MCN Division of Health

HOLDENVILLE—Every Tuesday and Thursday, from 6-8 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, the Native Navigators will host cancer continuum sessions at the Holdenville Indian Community Center located at 224 E. Poplar St., in Holdenville.

Survivorship:
Thursday, Feb. 16, 2012
Side Effects (NACES)
Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2012
Survivors' Support Circles

Comfort/ Preventative Care:
Thursday, Feb. 23, 2012
Wills & Advance Directive

For more information, please contact Kathy Cole at (918) 441-6048, Loretta Denny at (918) 441-6049 or Debra Isham, the Project Director at 1-855-623-1189.

College of the Muscogee Nation calls for public commentary for accreditation

Media Release
College of the Muscogee Nation

OKMULGEE — The College of the Muscogee Nation is seeking comments from the public about the college in preparation for its periodic evaluation by its regional accrediting agency.

The CMN will host a visit May 21-23, 2012, with a team representing the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association.

The team will review the institution's ongoing ability to meet the Commission's Criteria for Accreditation.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding the college via mail to:

Public Comment on College of the Muscogee Nation,
The Higher Learning Commission,
230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500, Chicago, IL 60604-1411

The public may also submit comments on the Commission's Web Site at www.ncahlc.org.

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs and must be must be in writing.

All comments must be received by April 21, 2012.

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Summer Youth 2012

Accepting Applications: December 19 through March 2.
Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Youth Employment Program.

To apply call 918 732.7775 or 7776
Or 1800 482-1979 ext. 7775 or 7776

Deadline to get all the paperwork in to the office is March 16, 2012
No fax applications will be accepted. Must be a member of a Federally recognized tribe and between the ages of 16 and 21.

Muscogee Nation News

March 1, 2012
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Eufaula Indian Community to elect new board March 31

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

EUFAULA — The Eufaula Indian Community met at the Skate Zone in Eufaula on Feb. 15, 2012, to configure electoral proceedings regarding the placement of a new Community Board. This meeting was held under the recommendation of Principal Chief George Tiger who issued a letter Feb. 14, 2012, suggesting the appointment of an acting board through a community resolution.

These proceedings followed the issuance of Executive Order 12-02, on Feb. 6, 2012, which reinstated the community's charter and returned the control of all non-gaming funds and assets to the Eufaula Indian Community. This order rescinds Executive Order 10-19 issued by the Ellis Administration, which revoked the community's charter, confiscated all the financial resources and assets from the Eufaula Community, and turned them over to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

MNN/Sterling Cosper

Pictured above are members of the Eufaula Creek Indian Community who met Feb. 15 to vote on the date of the board elections, which are set for Saturday, March 31.

Tiger provided a suggested resolution to be voted on by the community, which outlined possible procedure for the placement of a new Acting Community Board that will serve until their traditional election date at the end of September 2012.

Tiger recommended the election proceedings occur in a manner chosen by the community, and take place within 10 days after the Feb. 15, 2012, meeting.

The community held a discussion, lead by former Community Board Chairman Tom Pickering, about Tiger's proposed resolution, and what board members should serve until they have the election for the acting board.

A vote was held by show of hands from the community members. It was decided that previous members of the board who served before the charter was rescinded, should serve until elections to put an acting board in place could be held.

The community adopted the resolution suggested by Tiger with one amendment suggested by Eufaula Mayor and Muscogee citizen Selina Jayne-Dornan who was also present at the meeting.

Dornan suggested the community extend the election deadline to the end of March. The mayor stated that the extended date would allow proper time for the community to choose candidates, decide how the votes will be cast and advertise the election to the Eufaula community ensuring the maximum number of community members eligible attend and vote in the election.

SEE BOARD - 2

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Freedman descendants seek sovereign status

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE —The descendants of African-American slaves formerly on the rolls of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation who lost that status in a tribal referendum 33 years ago have launched an effort to become their own tribe.

Members of the Muscogee Creek Indian Freedmen Band have formally filed a petition with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The group filed its request more than two years ago. According to Band President Ron Graham, their history and family connections with Creek people and culture give them the background for such tribal status. Their legal case, Graham said, rests on the basis of the Treaty of 1866 which granted them citizenship in the Muscogee tribe, "That established our citizenship within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. We voted, we had Freedmen on the National Council, we spoke the language."

The 1866 treaty says in part, "... their descendants and such others of the same race as may be permitted by the laws of the said nation to settle within the limits of the jurisdiction of the Creek Nation as citizens thereof, shall have and enjoy all the rights and privileges of native citizens, including an equal interest in the soil and national funds."

Their goal, Graham said, is to have the terms of that treaty enforced, "We'd like to achieve with this tribal status, an opportunity to be who we are. We'd like our tribal sovereignty we understand sovereignty. If it's land in trust, benefits, whatever the case may be. Most importantly, we know exactly who we are, and what we are. That is what gives us the right to apply for and seek out federal recognition for our own nation." That's in spite of any differences in racial features or customs, he maintained, "We may look different, our ways may be different, but we are Muscogee Creek Indians."

The 1979 Muscogee (Creek) constitutional removed the citizenship status for freedmen. That was a convention, Graham noted, where the freedmen were prevented from voting.

Graham attempted to enroll as a tribal member in 1983, but was turned down. The requirement for a blood quantum disqualified him, he said. Graham cited a lack of blood quantum information on the Dawes Roll, leaving Freedmen without required information for enrollment.

Graham went to tribal court in pursuit of citizenship status in 2005. The first case was decided in their favor, but was appealed by the Citizenship Board. When the case went to the Muscogee Supreme Court, the case was dismissed.

Their case is similar to those of Cherokee and Seminole freedmen he said. They are all being disenfranchised, a case Graham described as being in a "coma." The situation has left the freedmen ineligible for tribal and federal programs such as educational assistance, health care benefits and other rights for participation as tribal citizens.

Currently the Freedmen's Association requests a modest membership fee. Those funds are used for the Association to function and keep its business office open. Once tribal status is achieved, Graham predicted, that fee would be discontinued when any federal funds become available to them.

Requirements for their Freedmen's tribal membership would be to have proof of their family listed on both the Dawes Rolls and the Dunn Roll of 1867.

SEE FREEDMEN - 6

MCN Citizenship Board to host public hearing March 8, 2012

Media Release
MCN Citizenship Office

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Board, under the authority granted by (M(C) NCA) Title 7, § 2-109 A, has created policies and procedures.

The purpose of the policies and procedures is to provide an administrative framework for internal operational procedures, including, but not limited to: rules for the review of citizenship applications, for hearings and appeals, and such other purposes necessary for the efficient performance of the MCN Citizenship Board's operations.

A public hearing will be held March 8, 2012 from 6-7 p.m., at the Mound Building Auditorium to discuss these policies and procedures.

Prior to the public hearing, a copy of the policies and procedures will be available for review at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Office located at the Capitol Complex in Okmulgee. Okla.

For more information, contact the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Office at (918) 732-7753.

MNN 2 - LEGAL

One Fire burns bright on 25th anniversary

MNN 4 - CALENDAR

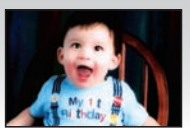
Summer Youth application deadline set for March 16

MNN 5 - PEOPLE

Obituaries: James McGirt

MNN 6 - PEOPLE

Birthday: Brenden Harding



MNN 8 - ADVERTISEMENT

Summer Youth 2012

Muscogee Nation News
STAFF

Manager - Gerald Wofford
Editor - Rebecca Landsberry
Editorial Assistant - Gary Fife
Reporter - Sterling Cosper

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Please contact our office for deadline of submissions to be considered for inclusion. ***The Muscogee Nation News*** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate ***The Muscogee Nation News*** in any regard.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed from Stigler, Okla., to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

TO CHANGE OR SUBMIT AN ADDRESS, PLEASE CALL (918) 732-7720 or send e-mail to: wmurphy@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

One Fire burns bright on 25th anniversary with renovations

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE — This February marked the 25th anniversary of Okmulgee's One Fire Casino's. One Fire hosted an open house Feb. 22, 2012, to help celebrate the occasion along with the recent renovation of the facility located on the corner of Hwy. 75 and Eufaula St., in Okmulgee.

Tribal officials including members of the National Council, Principal Chief George Tiger and Second Chief Roger Barnett were among those in attendance. Former coach Barry Switzer was also present for the event.

Barnett shared his opinion on the recent renovations. "I think it's great for the Creek Nation. It looks great; we're excited about the change, and we are really happy with the finished product."

Tiger shared the Barnett's sentiments on the event, and explained the improvements he's seen since the casino's initial opening. "I was here when it opened as a small, high-stakes bingo operation. It allows us to showcase where it has come since that small operation to where it is now as one of the better operations within Creek Nation."

MNN/Sterling Cosper
Pictured at left is Okmulgee's One Fire Casino General Manager Travis Thompson. Rennovations on the gaming facility have changed the look of both the inside and outside of the casino.

He continued by explaining how the casino, as one of the tribe's better operations, reflects on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation as a whole. "We're excited about it, to be the first tribe in Okla., to have Indian gaming, it's a testament to our support, our officials, and the wonderful employees we have," said Tiger.

One Fire Casino General Manager Travis Thompson explained how the renovations have affected the overall performance of the casino. "Clientele has changed; revenue has picked up tremendously. We are getting good response from the community. Our patrons seem extremely pleased with it, and seem surprised at what it looks like."

The extent of One Fire's remodel is very broad. The changes are all-inclusive with complete cosmetic updates made externally as well as inside the casino.

Thompson pointed out some of the improvements made inside the facility. "We have gutted it from floor to ceiling. We've added a lot of LED; we've added a lot of cultural elements, like a lot of clans that are in our chandeliers. The concept of the earth, wind and fire sculptures is in the ceiling and our big flame sculpture, which is the center piece inside the facility."

He continued, "Everything is brand new, new bases, new chairs, new machines, some of the machines are the same, but most of them are new."

A sample of the casino's food was provided for guests at the open house as well as a small gift for all those in attendance.

Thompson introduced his staff and expressed his joy for having great employees to help with the transition. He also showed plans for the possibility of a new bar to be added once the necessary approval process is completed.

Barnett also shared his vision for continual improvements throughout the MCN. "It goes along with the change of administration — we're looking forward to changes to other facilities as well."

Freedmen

Continued from Page 1

One of the challenges faced by the Freedmen is the question of race. Many people would not see them as Native Americans but as African-American. Those people would probably never change their minds, he thinks, but Graham feels that education is their best response, "We can't do anything about that. We just educate people. That is our best tool we can use about prejudice. Once we educate someone, we hope they change their views, but if they don't, it's up to them. We know exactly who we are and what we are."

The Freedmen's Association has solicited support from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). The NAACP passed a resolution last fall in support of the Freedmen's case. They said, it would work for an 'equitable' solution "...by means of education and fact-finding to address the history and current impact of the Muscogee Creek Indian Freedmen Band and promote understanding of tribal sovereignty."

In mid-February, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Chief of Staff Edwin Marshall said the Nation wasn't making any comment because the freedmen didn't have any tribal relationship.

Graham has not made any formal overtures to the Muscogee tribal government and is still waiting for the U.S. government to respond.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE CREEK NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION HOUSING DIVISION (successor in interest to THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CREEK NATION OF OKLAHOMA), — **Plaintiff,**
v. — **Case No. CV-2011-203**
ANGELA MARIE SEARCY and TOBY LYNN SHEETS, — **Defendant.**

SERVICE OF SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA TO:

ANGELA MARIE SEARCY and

TOBY LYNN SHEETS.

GREETINGS:

Take notice that you and each of you have been sued in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee Division, in the above entitled and numbered cause by the Plaintiff, and that you must answer the Complaint filed by Plaintiff in the office of the undersigned Court Clerk on or before the 2nd day of March, ~~2011~~ 2012, or judgment against you and a decree in Plaintiff's favor will be rendered accordingly.

You are ordered to appear at the Courtroom of the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee, OK, on the 2nd day of February, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. for a forcible entry and detainer hearing and to remain subject to the call of the court until discharged.

Dated this 28th day of December, 2011.

Court Clerk
By: Sharon McClenathan, Deputy

INGLISH & GAITHER, P.C.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
Henryetta, OK

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT FILED
2012 FEB -2 P 2:
Donna Beaver
COURT CLERK
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION

IN THE MATTER OF THE GUARDIANSHIP OF N.S.P., DOB: 08/08/1927 an Alleged Incapacitated Person. — **Case No. GD 2011-30**

SERVICE OF SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: **Sandra Parish; Billie Poole; and Karlata Parnosky**

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for guardianship in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. GD 2011-30, styled In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Person and Estate of: N.S.P. The action alleges that the Petitioner is entitled to an *Order Appointing Guardian* of an incapacitated person.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the Petitioner and appear at the hearing scheduled for the 27th day of March, 2012 at 1:30 P.m. at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Mound Building, Hwy 75 and 56 Loop, Okmulgee, OK or the allegations contained in the *Petition* will be taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of Petitioner as prayed for in her *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 2nd day of February, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District

By: Sharon McClenathan
(Deputy)

(SEAL)
Approved:
Kurt K. Townsend, MCN#642
Shannon L. Prescott, MCN#165
Courtney L. Eagan-Smith, MCN#543
Gregory N. Hope, MCN#641
MCN Citizen Legal Services
114 North Grand, North Lobby
Okmulgee, OK 74447
(918) 756-1112
(918) 756-1113 facsimile
Attorneys for Petitioner

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT FILED
2012 FEB 14 P 3:27
Donna Beaver
COURT CLERK
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION

In re the Name Change of
ASHLEY BURDEN
Case Number CV-2012-14
Judge Gregory Bigler

NOTICE OF FILING PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION TO: Whom it may concern

Ashley Burden, also known as Ashley Berryhill, born June 14, 1992 has filed a *Petition* in the above Court to have his name changed from Ashley Burden to Ashley Berryhill and the same will be heard in the courtroom of before the Honorable Judge Patrick E. Moore in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District Courthouse, in Okmulgee, Oklahoma, on the 15th day of March, 2012 at 10:00 o'clock A.m, or as soon thereafter as counsel can be heard. Any person may file a written protest in this case prior to the date set for the hearing.

Given under my hand a seal this 14th day of February, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Acting Court Clerk
By:
Deputy Court Clerk

APPROVED FOR ISSUANCE:

Courtney L. Eagan-Smith, MCN#543
Shannon L. Prescott, MCN#165
Kurt K. Townsend, MCN#642
Gregory N. Hope, MCN#641
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Legal Services
114 N. Grand, North Lobby
Okmulgee, OK 74447
(918) 756-1112 Telephone
(918) 756-1113 Facsimile
Attorneys for Petitioner

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT FILED
2012 FEB -2 P 2:
Donna Beaver
COURT CLERK
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION

IN THE MATTER OF THE GUARDIANSHIP OF N.S.P., DOB: 08/08/1927 an Alleged Incapacitated Person. — **Case No. GD 2011-30**

SERVICE OF SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: **Sandra Parish; Billie Poole; and Karlata Parnosky**

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Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District

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MCN Citizen Legal Services
114 North Grand, North Lobby
Okmulgee, OK 74447
(918) 756-1112
(918) 756-1113 facsimile
Attorneys for Petitioner

ADVERTISEMENT

March Madness Poker

We will be awarding each player that shows down a full house or better in a live action poker game with a reward ticket during the qualifying period (March 1-March 10) or until 64 players have won. At the conclusion of the qualifying period we will match each player with a college team that has been selected to compete in the tournament.

The round of 64 will spawn 32 winners; the poker players that are attached with the winning team will receive a $20 cash prize and move on with their team to the next round. As the teams advance the prizes will grow.

Round of 64= 32 winners @ $20
Round of 32= 16 winners @ $40
Round of 16= 8 winners @ $60
Round of 8=4 winners @ $100
Round of 4=2 winners @ $250
Round of 2=1 winner @ $500

St. Patrick's Day
Saturday March 17th NOON - 5PM

Every Diamond Club participant will receive a $10 Match Play. We will have five - $100 free play drawings and 2 – St. Patrick's Bonus drawings at the Main Casino and 2 - $100 free play drawings at the Travel Plaza every ½ hour beginning at 1:30 PM and ending at 4:00 PM.

The St. Patrick's bonus prizes include:
2 – $1,000 cash prizes, 5 - $250 cash prizes,
5 - $150 cash prizes.

Saturday March 24th NOON - 5PM

Every Diamond Club participant will receive a $10 Match Play. We will have five - $100 free play drawings and 2 – Spring Fling Bonus drawings at the Main Casino and 2 - $100 free play drawings at the Travel Plaza every ½ hour beginning at 1:30 PM and ending at 4:00 PM.

The St. Patrick's bonus prizes include:
2 – riding mowers, 3 push mowers, 2 - $100 Lowe's Gift Cards, and 5 gas grills.

3420 W. PEAK BLVD.
MUSKOGEE OK 74401
918.683.1825 creeknationcasino.net
Look for us on facebook and twitter under
'LUCK STRIKES HERE'

CREEK NATION Casino MUSCOGEE

CREEK NATION COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Parent Committee Grocery Bingo set for March 17

OKMULGEE — The OSU Parent Committee 2011-2012, is hosting a fund-raiser bingo at Okmulgee Indian Community Center Saturday, March 17.

Bingo starts at 1 p.m., with the food sale beginning at 11 a.m.

Most of the food items were donated by local businesses. Some of the items available will be homemade chili, desserts, chili-cheese hotdogs, Frito pies and popcorn.

We will also announce the winners of the Lucky Charm Contest.

For more information, contact the Parent Committe at (918) 304-0476 or (918) 752-1444 or by email at: lmbear@okstate.edu

Summer Youth application deadline set for March 16

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Summer Youth Employment Program is accepting applications for the upcoming year.

The deadline for submitting applications is March 16, 2012 at the Human Development Employment and Training Office.

For more information, please contact 918-732-7775 or 7776. Interested participants may also call 1-800-482-1979 ext. 7775 or 7776. No fax applications will be accepted. Applicants must be a member of a federally recognized tribe and between the ages of 16 and 21.

Sexual Assault Awareness Walk set for April 11

OKMULGEE — "Walk a Mile In Her Shoes" is the theme for the 2012 Sexual Assault Awareness Walk, set for April 11, 2012.

The event will begin at 1 p.m., at the MCN Mound building. It is sponsored by the MCN Family Violence Prevention Program.

For more information, contact Tina Qualls at (918) 813-6900 or email tqualls@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

Tulsa MCN Headstart raffle set for April 1, 2012

TULSA — Tulsa Muscogee (Creek) Nation Head Start is conducting a raffle for ballsticks donated by wood carver Ed Screechowl.

This raffle will help raise funds for tassels, yearbooks and photos for the Pre-K graduating class of 2012.

Tickets are $1 each or $5 for six. Drawing will be held April 1, 2012. Winner need not be present at the drawing to claim the prize.

For more information call (918) 237-6123 or (918) 296-0357.

Oklahoma Federation of Indian Women to host Easter craft fair April 1, 2012

NORMAN — The Oklahoma Federation of Indian Women is holding a Native American arts and crafts market and Easter auction, April 1, 2012.

It will be open from 3-6 p.m. in the Warrior Room of the Thunderbird Casino located at 15700 E. State Highway, in Norman.

On sale and up for auction will be Easter baskets, crafts, gifts and more. Several Native American arts and crafts booths will be available. The event is open to the public.

For more information or booth space, contact Lisa Frazier at (405) 664-7060 or Nicole Walls at (405) 593-7060.

Glenpool Community to elect officers March 13

GLENPOOL — Glenpool Indian Community will conduct elections Tuesday, March 13. The deadline for submitting letters of intent and background check forms has already passed.

All Executive Board seats are open.

Holdenville Community to elect officers March 10

HOLDENVILLE — Holdenville Creek Indian Community will be taking nominations for the position of Chairperson of the Board of Trustees.

Nominations will be accepted until March 2, 2012 at noon.

The election for Chairperson of the Board of Trustees will be held Saturday, March 10, 2012 from 7 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Holdenville Creek Indian Community Center. Voters must be general members of the community in order to vote.

Nominations may be submitted in a sealed envelope to the community secretary at 224 E. Poplar St., in Holdenville, Okla.

For more information, contact the Holdenville Creek Indian Community Center at (405) 379-3485.

2012 Muscogee (Creek) Nation tribal calendars now available to citizens

OKMULGEE — a 2012 tribal calendar featuring images of historic leader Opoethleyahola, ceremonial dancers, a traditional Christian church and the College of the Muscogee Nation is now available for free distribution to Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizens.

The "Visions of Our Ancestors" 2012 calendar includes National Council Planning Sessions, monthly meeting dates, tribal events (such as the Muscogee Nation Festival and Council Oak Ceremony) and the birthdates of the Chief and Second Chief.

The wall calendar measures 13" x 19" and is suitable for home or office use. A larger 24" x 36" calendar is also available for use by community centers and churches. These calendars are available free of charge at the MCN Public Relations office at the tribal complex (no mail deliveries please). Distribution of the large calendars is limited to one per community or church.

For more information, contact MCN Public Relations at (918) 732-7617.

MCN Web site to be updated, seeks feedback

Media Release
MCN Communications Dept.

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Communications Department is redesigning the website to make it more functional. As part of the redesign, the department is seeking input from citizens regarding usability. Feedback will be used to create a more user-friendly site.

Would you like to submit job applications online? Check the status of your claim with the housing department? Change the name on your roll card from your maiden name or update your address? Have other suggestions or comments about the website? Let us know via email at jslane@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

Mvto! For more information, call (918) 732-7720 or contact us by mail at:

C/O MCN Communications
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447

Administration extends requests for resumes

Media Release
MCN Office of the Principal Chief

OKMULGEE — Principal Chief George Tiger has a new vision for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that includes upholding traditional Muscogee ways and values while at the same time elevating the Nation's government and business operations to unprecedented levels of effectiveness, accountability and service.

To accomplish this ambitious vision, we need to fill multiple leadership positions across the Nation's administrative, health, education, social services, law enforcement, judiciary, and business operations.

Potential candidates should possess the following:

- Experience
- Education
- Proven track record of leadership and accomplishment
- Demonstrate a winning attitude
- Work well in a team environment
- Strong commitment to the Administration's vision and goals for the Muscogee (Creek) people

If you meet the qualifications...

Submit your resume or C.V. to LSpaulding@MekkoTiger.com

Attach examples of your winning attitude, how you have made a difference, your leadership successes and how you have worked well in a team environment to achieve ambitious goals and a shared vision.

All positions are subject to Muscogee (Creek) Nation and Native American hiring preference.

Ce'puyacetos ce!

For more information visit the website at www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov.

11th Annual

"TO BRIDGE A GAP" CONFERENCE

APRIL 2 – 5, 2012

Choctaw Casino and Resort

"To Bridge A Gap"
USDA FOREST SERVICE
TRIBAL RELATIONS PROGRAM

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma will be hosting the 11th Annual "To Bridge A Gap" Conference, in collaboration with the National Forest Service. This conference is designed to strengthen Government-to-Government relationships between federal and state agencies, and federally-recognized Tribes with interests in our forests.

Topics for this year include:

- Preconference Tribal Meeting with FCC
- Regional Executive Session with Forest Leaders and Tribal Leaders
- Introductory GPS/GIS Preconference Hands-On Workshop
- NEPA and Section 106: Procedures and Issues
- Traditional Cultural Properties and Sacred Sites
- NAGPRA: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
- Tribal and Federal Collaborative Partnerships
- FCC Consultation Meeting with Tribes
- Tribal Relations Report
- National Historic Preservation Program: Updates and Application Process

Guest Speaker: TBA

Several federal and state agencies will be present including National Forest Service from various regions, Army Corp. of Engineers, State Historic Preservation Offices, National Park Service, and National Resources Conservation Service.

The "To Bridge A Gap" Conference is a wonderful opportunity to discuss tribal relations and cultural preservation issues, and participate with others who are dedicated to improving this relationship.

For more information please contact Dr. Ian Thompson, Choctaw Nation Historic Preservation Department at (580) 924-8280 Ext. 2216, ithompson@choctawnation.com, or Johnnie Jacobs at (580) 924-8280 Ext. 2559, jjacobs@choctawnation.com.

Conference registration and hotel information can also be found on the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma website at **www.choctawnationculture.com/TBAG2012.**

OBITUARIES

JAMES MCGIRT

HOLDENVILLE — Funeral service for James R. McGirt, 77, of Holdenville, Okla., was held at 2 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 4, 2012 at the Many Springs Baptist Church in Holdenville, Okla. A wake service was held on Friday, Feb. 3, 2012 at the Hudson Phillips Funeral Home Chapel. Interment was at the Tea/Cornell Cemetery in Spalding, Okla., under the direction of Hudson Phillips Funeral Home. He died on Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2012, in Oklahoma City.

Officiating was Rev. Jimmy Anderson of the Many Springs Baptist Church. Pallbearers were Arthur Brunner, Jr., Thomas Yahola, Adam Proctor, Michael Stinnettt, Curtis Kinney, and Woody Kinney. Honorary pallbearers were Tom Bear, Jr., Keeper Johnson and Nathan Buck, Jr.

James was born May 3, 1934 to Moses McGirt and Emily (Cornell) in Wewoka, Okla. He attended Chilocco Indian School in Arkansas City, Kansas and graduated in 1952. He later served as President of the Chilocco Alumni Association and was honored by being inducted into the Alumni Hall of Fame. He attended the University of Oklahoma majoring in Journalism and marched in the "Pride of Oklahoma" Marching Band.

James enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1954. He received his basic training at Camp Lejune, N.C., and was selected to receive Flight Training in Pensacola, Florida. He became a member of the U. S. Navy to receive this training and earned his pilot wings in June 1957. At this time he reenlisted in the United States Marine Corps and served as a pilot until 1960.

James worked for McDonnell-Douglas in California for several years and held positions as Contract Coordinator, Contract Supervisor, and Branch Manager. He was Chairman of the Native American Scholarship Fund while employed in the aircraft industry which sought contributions to assist in helping Native American children with college education cost. He helped found the Urban (United) Indian Development Association in Los Angeles, Cali., and he was self-employed as a professional consultant with several Oklahoma tribes. He served on the Muscogee (Creek) National Council twice and was a former Director of Human Resources for the Muskogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health Services.

His personal goal was to help the tribal government serve its people in the best way possible.

James was preceded in death by his parents and an infant son.

Survivors include his son, John Randall McGirt of Calif.; longtime friend and companion Willie Ahdunko of Oklahoma City; his aunt, Lucy Kimble of Ponca City, Okla., and numerous cousins and a host of other family and friends.

JIMMY WARNER

WEWOKA — James (Jimmy) Pete Warner, born Feb. 20, 1935, of Wewoka, Okla.,, moved to his heavenly home Feb. 2, 2012, to begin an eternity with his Savior and loved ones who had gone on before him; his loving wife of 47 years, Mary Alice Warner; father and mother Ples and Cleo (Harjo) Muirhead; Brother Joe Muirhead; and Grandparents Pete Harjo and Dessie Harjo; and David Earl and Delia Muirhead.) He was grandson of Greenleaf Grounds and Deer Clan.

Survivors include his daughter Debbie Northrup and husband Jack, Portland, OR, son David Warner, Seminole, and grandson Chris Jones, Shawnee; four sisters, Deane Mosley and husband Leon, Wewoka, Carolyn Pumphrey and husband John, Oklahoma City, Linda Francis, Moore, Norma Sanchez and husband Frankie, Moore, Norma Sanchez and husband Frankie, Moore; and two brothers, Alex Muirhead, Newalla, and Rick Muirhead and wife Rhonda; and three special cousins, Jess McDowell, Stroud, Eulala McDowell Pegram, Moore, and Mona Campbell, Bearden; nineteen nieces and nephews, and a host of other relatives and friends.

Jimmy grew up in the "Bull Pasture" near Butner, attended Butner High School and served in the U.S. Navy, where he was an equipment operator on the USS Falcon. He worked for oil companies all over the world operating heavy equipment and spent seven years on the Alaskan pipeline. He was a Mason in Wewoka. He grew up with a great love for horses as his dad and uncle, Sid Muirhead, owned and trained quarter horses and thoroughbreds.

Jimmy will be remembered for his generosity in helping many people with special needs, big or small. The most important event in Jimmy's life was when he, his wife Mary, and son David were saved in the Freewill Baptist Church in Wewoka. (At his baptism, the family recalls Jimmy taking little David's hand and said "Come on son, let's go get baptized.")

Jimmy had a strong love for friends and family. The "highlight" of the year for him was when his family gathered at the Wewoka First Baptist Church at Christmas. Jimmy will be missed this year, but not forgotten!

MAXINE WATASHE

SAPULPA — On Sunday, Feb. 12, 2012 at 6:35 a.m., on the day of the Lord and her 48th wedding anniversary, Maxine (Simms) Watashe entered into glory, surrounded by family to see her through.

Maxine (Simms) Watashe was born Oct. 30, 1932, to the Rev.Maxey and Sawena Simms at the family home. She lived in the Pickett Prairie area all of her life. As a young child, Maxine attended Pickett Prairie School and Eufaula Boarding school. She then attended and graduated from Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kan. Throughout her early school years she learned to play various instruments such as piano, organ, violin, flute and clarinet. She also was involved in many activities while attending school.

Early in life Maxine knew the importance of being independent and having high standards when it came to work ethics. She begun as a child cleaning houses and then worked for Kress Department Store in Sapulpa and later working for the Muscogee Creek Nation where she retired in 2007 after 29 years. She was very involved when it came to tribal politics, and tremendously helped her brother in law during his 20 year reign as Chief, he often stated, "She is a go getter and tells it like it is."

Maxine grew up and was nurtured in a strong Christian home and in church at Pickett Chapel where she played piano and organ, directed church choir and helped in special occasions. She cherished the "good ole days" with her family and church friends there and would speak of them often. In later years she attended Morning Star Church in Hectorville where she continued to be active in all she could.

In 1963 on February 12, she married Joe Edward Watashe. To this marriage two children were born and became the focus of her being the greatest momma ever. Those that were blessed to call her momma were Mark Watashe of the home and Salena Watashe of Sapulpa.

Maxine was preceded in death by her parents, Rev. Maxey and Sawena Simms; brother, Yahola Simms; four sisters, Frances Wildcat, Fannie Walker, Lilly Cox and Rosie Simms.

She is survived by husband, Joe of the home; children Mark and Saleana; sister, Madja Simms of Sapulpa; two step-daughters, Lisa and Donna Watashe; one step-son, Joe Watashe, Jr.; host of nieces and nephews and step grandchildren; two grand dogs Kota and Kiwa who sat at her window as to look after her during her last days; and a multitude of dear friends.

Maxine enjoyed playing the piano, music, going to church, being around family and friends, helping others in need, watching wrestling with her husband and watching OU Football and basketball and loved to watch her children and great nieces and nephews play sports and was looking forward to watching her great-great nieces and nephews begin their adventures in sports activities. All nephews and nieces and family were dear to her. Maxine knew no stranger, she loved to talk and laugh. She was a giver in any capacity and had a compassionate heart for others. She loved to read the Bible and pray and it was her greatest desire to know and learn more about the Lord. She was always thankful and grateful for another day even though she had been feeling ill. She was always encouraging her children to do their best, give to the Lord and others, and to get in church somewhere. She loved her husband and family so much and will always be in our hearts. But what will be remembered the most is during her final days to be able to speak clearly she stated, "God is so good, I enjoy people and I love to help people." Although, she was bedridden her spirit was never confined, when songs were sung she would try to sing along, when prayers were said she prayed along and would mouth with what strength she had, "Praise the Lord.", and "Thank you, Jesus." Such a strong, determined woman of faith gave courage and inspiration to other who came to visit her. She loved all her family and each were often called out by name in her prayers and her prayer was that all know the Lord as their savior. She will be greatly missed but will forever be in our hearts and in the way we do things for she was a great example to all.

Wake services were held Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2012, at Pickett Chapel Church.

Funeral services were, Feb. 16, 2012, at Pickett Chapel Church, Sapulpa, Okla.

Officiating will be the Reverends Negiel Bigpond, Jack Sunagoowie and Joe Lowe, Jr. Interment to follow at Simms Family Cemetery. Bearers will be Bill Dowdy, Sr., Loy Thomas, Jon West, Floyd Bales, Dale Bible, Jeff Fife, Dean Tiger, and Jerry Wilson. Honorary bearers will be Bill Fife, George Tiger, Roger Barnett, Johnny Weygant, Richard Wildcat, Dennis Barnett, stepgrandsons, and all nephews and great-nephews.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Smith Funeral Home.

THANK YOUS

SUSIE FRANKS

WEWOKA — The family of Susie Jacobs Franks greatly appreciates all of you who came to offer their condolences for the loss of our Mom, our Grandma, our G-ma, and our aunt.

Thanks to all the special ladies who helped with preparing the great food for both days of the services. A special thanks to the Checotah Indian Community for their help and hospitality and to each of you who sent beautiful flowers and delicious food.

Mvto to Reverend Bernadine Dowdy for the special service of "Celebrating Life" of our mom. Our mom had ninety years with family and friends. She will always be loved and never forgotten.

VIRGINIA FRANK

TULSA — The family of Virginia Frank would like to give many thanks for all the delicious food, beautiful Creek singing, prayers and especially your last days here with us.

"Mvto" to the ladies of Middle Creek #2 for purchasing, preparing and being in charge of the food and meals during the services. All the food that was brought was greatly appreciated

A special "Mvto" to each person for being with the family in our time of need during Virginia's last days here and during her services. We appreciate all the beautiful flowers and food each of you sent.

JAMES MCGIRT

HOLDENVILLE — The family of James Rudolph McGirt thanks Chief George Tiger and other members of the Administration and Jim's many friends and former coworkers for attending his services at the new Many Springs Baptist Church on Feb. 4, 2012. We especially thank the Church Members, Pastor and Ladies of the Church for their assistance in making this service so meaningful and allowing it to be the first service in the new building.

We thank the Muskogee (Creek) Nation for providing funds for the meals which were served after the Wake, before the Service, and after the burial. A special thank you to the Rev. Jimmy Anderson, a long-time friend of Rudy's, for leading the services at the church and the cemetery. Military honors were rendered by the MCN Veterans.

A grateful MVTO to all who performed any service.

The McGirt and Cornell Families and his long-time companion, Ruth Wahpecome.

MCN Citizenship Office updating death records

Media Release
MCN Citizenship Office

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Office is asking family members of deceased citizens to contact our office in order to update the deceased citizens' information. The office is also requesting the original state certified fill image death certificate of the citizen.

The original document will be returned. This is in response to the Citizenship Office's efforts to update the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's files.

For more information, please contact the office at (918) 732-7941.

Change a life.
Become a Foster/Adoptive Parent
GREAT SEAL OF THE MUSCOGEE NATION
NICWA
National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting our children • Preserving our culture
Children. Keepers of our tradition.
Preserve our heritage, become a foster/adoption parent today.
In the State of Oklahoma, there are Muscogee Creek Children in state and tribal custody looking for a place to call "cuko" (home).
Become a Foster/Adoptive tribal home.
For more information contact: Tammi Reed-Barnett
at (918)732-7883 OR email: tammirb@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

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"Caring when it counts"

- Proud to have Native American employees and ownership.
- Special packaging available that utilizes the Creek and BIA Benefits.
- Traditions matter and we are here to help honor them with respect and dignity.
- $4400.00 Traditional Creek Package that includes a 20 steel casket, concrete graveliner, and services.

www.integrityfuneralservice.com

410 East Trudgeon Street
Henryetta, Oklahoma 74437
(918) 652-6600

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ALEXANDRIA CHINO

SAPULPA — Alexandria Chino is a 2011 graduate from Sapulpa High School. She received a cheerleading scholarship from Bacone College in Muscogee, Okla., where she is attending for the spring 2012 semester. Alex plans to major in criminal justice.

Parents are Theron Sr., and Stacy (Harjo) Chino. Siblings are Destiny, Theron Jr., and Leland Chino.

Grandparents are Henry Harjo, Jr., (Wetumka), Sandra Harjo (Pawnee), Judy (Wesley) and Henry Harjo Sr. (Wetumka), Philip and Louise (Kent) Mathews (Pawnee).

Chino is of the Bird Clan.

DUSTIN NEWELL

CHECOTAH — Pfc. Dustin DeForrest Newell, 19, of Checotah graduated from the United States Marine Corps boot camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Nov. 4, 2011.

Newell successfully completed 13 weeks of intense training. He was one of 85 recruits in Training Platoon 1015.

While in basic training, Newell qualified as expert on the rifle range. Following 10 days home on leave, he returned to Camp Pendleton for one month of Military Combat Training. Then he went to Pensacola, Fla., for further training in aviation ordinance.

Newell's parents are Mike and Robbin Hayes Checotah. His siblings are Jake and Ricky Newell of Checotah.

Grandparents are Mike and Danna Minnick, and great grandparents are Keitha Childers and the late Dan Childers.

Service to our country is a great tradition in the family. Newell's great-great grandfather, Sauce Childers, U.S. Army; great uncles Newman and Blue Childers, U.S. Army; great-grandfather Dan Childers, U.S. Army, Uncle Danny Bledsoe, Oklahoma Army Reserves; Grandfather Mike Minnick, U.S. Army; dad, Mike Hayes, United States Marines.

Newell is of the Alligator Clan.

BIRTHDAYS

KADEN CHARBONEAU

WAGONER — Kaden Charboneau turned 10 years old March 21, 2012.

Parents are Micco and Randi Charboneau of Wagoner. He has one brother Kale, 5.

Grandparents are Jerry and Hettie Charboneau of Wagoner. He is the great grandson of Myra Blanche Alexander.

Kaden enjoys all sports, playing with friends and hanging out with his brother, Kale. Kaden attends school and Teague Elementary in Wagoner.

BRENDEN HARDING

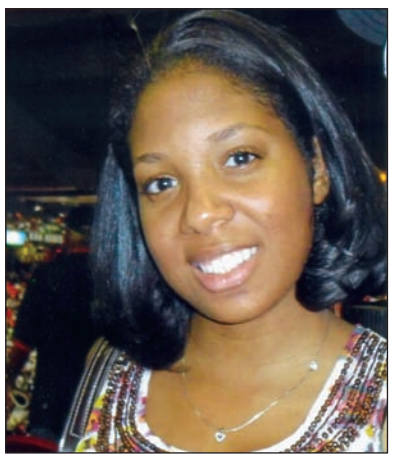
OKMULGEE — Brendan Michael Harding celebrated his first birthday with family and friends Jan. 31, 2012.

The theme of the party was Dr.Suess' Cat in the Hat.

Brendan is the son of Kip and Meske Harding.

Grandparents are Debi Johnson of Morris, and Doug Juneau of Okmulgee, Brenda Mayo of Okmulgee, and the late Keith Harding of Baton Rouge, La.

TARA MCINTYRE



SMYRNA, Ga. — Tara E. McIntyre turned 28 years old Feb. 23, 2012.

Her parent is Bobbi T. West.

Grandparents are Erecil Ellen Hamilton Winn-West, Mary Hamilton Winn and Henry Winn.

GINNAVE MOWLES

CARTWRIGHT — Ginnave Mowles will turn 17 on March 2, 2012.

Her parents are Carrie Ramey, and the late Gregory Suther Mowles.

Grandparents are Angela and Arley Ramey, Irene and Jerry Mowles, Don and Dorthy Poteet, and Ola Ramey.

Great grandparents are Cora Mae Lowe, Suther Bruner, and Tony and Lavera Mowels.

SAVANNAH NELSON

OWASSO — Savannah Nicole Nelson celebrated her second birthday Jan. 14, 2012. With her cousins, family and friends. Barney was the theme of the party.

Parents are Chase and Ashley Nelson. Grandparents are Mark and Teresa Betche, and John and Lolita Nelson. Great Grandparents are Roy and Nedra Brown, Roy and Doris Berg, Ben and Wanda McCune, and Dona Nelson.

IZAIAS RAMIREZ

OKLAHOMA CITY — Izaias "Z" Ramirez of Oklahoma City, turned 10 Jan. 21, 2012. Ramirez celebrated the occasion with family and friends at the Oklahoma City Zoo.

He is the son of Amanda Ramirez, great-grandson of the late Josephine Morgan of Morris and the grandchild of David and Ellen Lena of Okemah.

Izaias is in fourth grade at Deer Creek Elementary in Edmond where he is on the honor roll, active in sports and a member of Peoples Church in OKC.

Izaias is very proud of his Creek culture and belongs to the Wind Clan.

Board

Continued from Page 1

The community agreed with Dornan through another vote, and decided the election for the acting board will be held March 31, 2012.

Dornan expressed her feelings on the reinstatement of Eufaula's charter. "I am very happy that they got their charter back. The members of Eufaula have always been active in their community and given back in many ways. I am looking forward to them being able to be very active again."

Although Dornan believes the people of Eufaula should have a say in their community, she also wished to explain her own interjections during the meeting. "I am very outspoken because I want to make sure they do it right, I'm not saying anything was ever done wrong. I think we're on the right path, I'm proud of the board members and all their hard work. I just want to make sure that I help the transition."

Pickering agreed with the mayor about letting the people control their community. "I would like to see us where we were at before as a self–sustaining community, so we can take care of all these people here again. We had a concept years ago of letting the people govern their community and I hope we get back to that," he said.

The former board chairman also commented on the mood of the Eufaula Community toward the reinstatement of their charter. "Everybody is really elated, the tribal administration has been really helpful and supportive. We're just trying to get it in our mind that we are not criminals, we feel like we're part of the tribe again."

Pickering felt that the reinstatement would have a significant impact on Eufaula's economy. "I hope we can create better jobs, and better paying jobs. I guarantee you we can get to where we were, like with the good leadership we had in the past."

Tiger extended his blessing to the Eufaula Indian Community, and expressed his view on former Chief Ellis' decision. "Tribal government, to me, got involved in something that could've been taken care of at the local level and I'm glad to see these communities getting back their communities. I've always said, 'Who best knows about themselves is the communities themselves'," he said.

He also shared the sense of unity the people of Eufaula feel when they have these meetings. "They're all excited; number one… especially our elderly people, they have always looked forward to those meetings. It was more than just a meeting to them. It was about the opportunity to fellowship and see friends on a timely basis and I think that's a good thing."

Tiger expressed his continued support toward the community as they continue the process of taking back their own governance. "We have applied for some funding through the department of treasury for community development financial initiative program that's basically for us to help those communities with another resource. I'm glad they got their communities back."

The Eufaula Indian Community will hold another meeting Feb. 23, 2012 to discuss further details on the election proceedings including a potential discussion on possible salaries that will be paid to the acting board once they are elected.

MORTGAGE DOWN PAYMENT & CLOSING COST PROGRAM

FIRST TIME HOMEBUYER EDUCATION CLASS

Because many Native American families find it difficult or overwhelming to purchase their first home The Mortgage Down Payment and Closing Cost Program is offering a first time homebuyer education class which will help prepare our Native American families for the road to homeownership.

The Homebuyer Class will feature guest speakers knowledgeable in the various aspects of buying a home. From credit and loans to finding the right house and finalizing the deal.

UNDERSTANDING CREDIT AND CREDIT SCORES	Mr. David Showalter Data Facts
LOANS	Mr. Jon Kennedy, Loan Officer Bank 2
REAL ESTATE	Ms. Shelly Rivera, Realtor, Keller-Williams,
ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS	Mr. James Williams Environmental Specialist II MCN Environmental Dept.
INSURANCE	Phyllis Little Martin AMERIND Risk Services
CLOSINGS	Ms. Debbie Haynes, Closer OLT Real Estate Closing Co.

March 24th, 2012
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

FOR PRE-ENROLLMENT CONTACT
LADONNA NORTHCROSS
918-549-2554, M-F 8AM-5PM

MCN HOUSING DIVISION
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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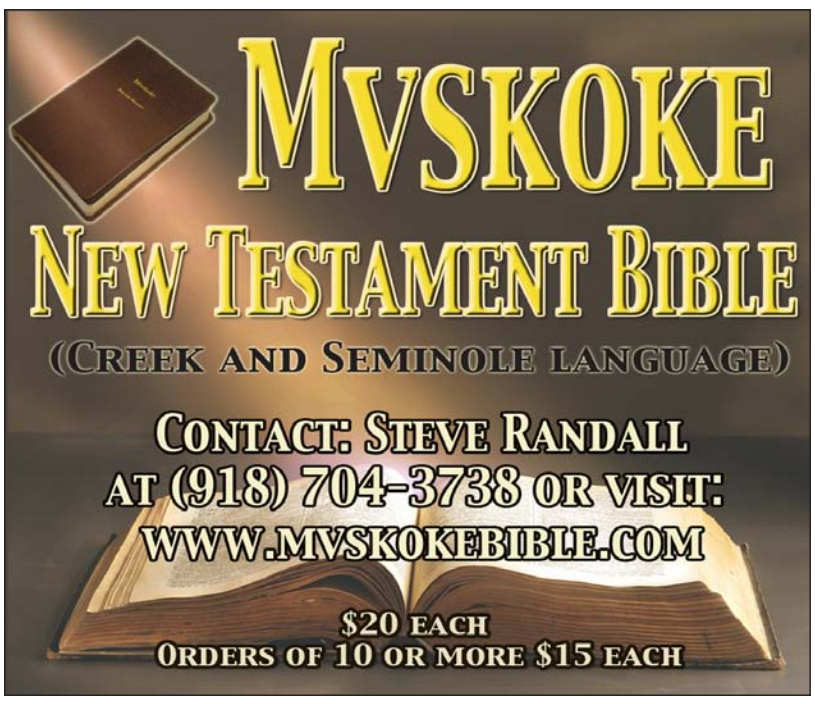


Wild onion dinners are here; let the fundraisers begin!

MFSI/Melodie Reader

Pictured above are freshly-picked wild onion being prepared for a Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Inititative event by Creek citizen Hannah Reader.

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — The wild onions have begun peeking their heads from under fallen leaves and many Creeks have already slipped back to their favorite secret spots to gather the tasty little tubers. The notices for wild onion dinners are already popping up in the tribal newspaper and flyers across Creek country. Churches and families are putting out the call to attend their events and share in the feasts. Proceeds usually to go to whatever church repair, trip or family reunion plans that happen to need some financial boost. What better way to raise a few bucks by filling a few tummies with this seasonal treat from the land?

For six to 10 bucks, diners can have dinners with plates full of delicious, delicate little onions fried with scrambled eggs, fry bread and other heavenly tidbits, plus drink and dessert--all prepared by the hands of dedicated family members or church volunteers. Bless' em all!

"It's just like a family thing. You go out pick wild onions, clean 'em together and then you cook them."

— Ashley Butler, Okmulgee

Sometimes it's an 'all you can eat' extravaganza, sometimes not. No matter. There's usually enough traditional food available to challenge the heartiest of appetites. (Note: that's usually, but not always. I'm sure we've all seen a few major league eaters that defied that challenge with impunity!)

Muscogee Nation News decided to conduct another unscientific survey at the tribal travel plaza, battling burger aromas and talking with Creeks on limited lunch hours to bring you this survey.

Two questions were posed to interviewees:

1. What comes to mind when you hear the phrase, "wild onion dinner?"

They see more than just wild onions. They see grape dumplings, fry bread, salt meat. Pretty good! In my mind, when I see wild onion dinners, I see a big ol' gathering of people sitting down at a table together.

2. I would have to say, probably at the Wilson Community Center. That's where we put on a wild dinner. It was the taste of the food. That's what made me lost in my own world, 'cause the food tasted so good, I couldn't resist it.

Tammy Ringgold (Okmulgee)

1. Sunday dinners—that's what I think of, coming home from church, having dinners, and there's always somebody that has the wild onion dinners. Springtime, Easter, whatever.

2. Probably at my grandma's house in Eufaula. It was family. We always love having our family together, and just the memories, I guess.

Andrew Proctor, (Wilson)

1. Big lunch, dinner served. Lot of people gathering, fellowship and eating. I can remember my mom making it with the eggs and onions mixed in, that's how we ate it.

2. At the dinner table, when my mom cooked it at our house. I guess when your mom makes something, that's the best thing you could eat.

Lisa Billy (Checotah)

1. Wild onions, going to these different churches when they have their fundraisers, the wild onion dinners. The last time I went was at Big Cussetah Church. It was good. They had some good food. They had a really good spread.

2. At home, at my mom's. It's your mom's cooking, there's no place like home.

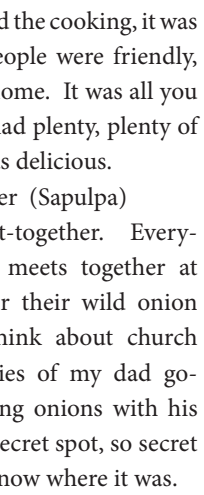
(Unknown) Washington (Okmulgee)

1. Good food. Good times at church.

2. Where were you when you had the best wild onion dinner you had ever eaten?

Julian Harjo (Wilson; College of the Muscogee Nation student)

1. When a lot of Indian folks, when they hear that word, 'wild onion' they figure a big ol' dinner.



"...when they [Indians] hear that word, 'wild onion' they figure a big ol' dinner. They see more than just wild onions. They see grape dumplings, fry bread, salt meat."

— Julian Harjo, Wilson

2. Butler Creek, at my church.

Ashley Butler (Okmulgee)

1. Wild onions and eggs. Going out and picking wild onions with my family. It's just like a family thing. You go out pick wild onions, clean 'em together and then you cook them. Invite everybody. We would also go with my grandmother. There'd be a wild onion dinner--she was ready to go. She would take us, and we'd go to different churches and stuff. It always brings a lot of people together.

2. I was with my grandmother at her house. She bought some wild onions from a woman who was selling them and she cooked them up, cooked salt meat, made fry bread. I don't think I'm going to have a wild onion dinner like that again. Hers were crunchy and yet soft. I don't know there was just something about them that was perfect. I could never find anybody who made them the way she made them.

Sally Bucktrot (Beardan and Cromwell)

1. To me, I think of the traditional foods, what the old people had a long time ago. Your wild onions, your svkonepke (hominy and meat), your osafke, salt meat, fry bread, tucvenen tvlakot (3-bean salad) ham hock in it. That's what I think about.

2. I went to Arbeka Church in Cromwell. That was probably the best place. To me, I liked the cooking, it was done right, the people were friendly, just like being at home. It was all you can eat and they had plenty, plenty of wild onions. It was delicious.

Vanessa Beaver (Sapulpa)

1. Family get-together. Everybody comes and meets together at Haikey Chapel for their wild onion dinner. Always think about church and family. Stories of my dad going out and digging onions with his grandma at their secret spot, so secret that I don't even know where it was.

2. Haikey Chapel, probably because it was prepared by family.

SURVEY SAYS: It's the family touch in the kitchen, having a lot of kinfolk around you or the gathering at the community church that produces the best wild onion dinners. Of course, there aren't a lot of other choices, but that's OK. These seem to work just fine.

I'm going out to find one of these 'all you can eat' dinners and chow down 'til I'm miserable.

Hompvks ci!

"To me, I liked the cooking, it was done right, the people were friendly, just like being at home. It was all you can eat and they had plenty, plenty of wild onions."

— Sally Bucktrot, Cromwell

Wild onion dinner calendar

Salt Creek - March 1

HOLDENVILLE — Salt Creek United Methodist Church Wild Onion Dinner will be Saturday, March 1, 2012 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., at Holdenville Indian Community Center.

Prices are $ 10 for adults and $6 for children 12 and under. The annual dinner is all-you-can-eat.

Cully-Lowe - March 3

KONOWA — The Culley-Lowe Family will host thier wild onion dinner Saturday, March 3 beginning at 10:30 a.m., at Konawa Community Center. Dinners will be $8 per plate.

For more information, call Chris at (405) 683-0601 or Anna a6 (405) 651-9454.

Haikey Chapel - March 17

TULSA — Haikey Chapel will host a wild onion dinner Saturday, March 17, 2012 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Adult dinners are $8 and children's plates are $5.

The church is located at 8815 E. 101st St., in Tulsa.

For more information, contact Sandra Chisholm by email at: sancrandall@yahoo.com

Little Cussetah - March 17

SCHULTER – Little Cussetah United Methodist Church will host their annual wild onion dinner Saturday, March 24, beginning at 11 a.m. Dinners will be $7 for adults and $5 for children. Price includes all-you-can-eat.

For more information, visit them on Facebook at Little Cussetah UMC or contact Paul Tecumseh at (918) 270-0213 or Nelson Harjo at (918) 752-7731.

Concharty UMC - March 31

OKMULGEE — Concharty United Methodist Church will host a wild onion dinner Saturday, March 31 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Adult dinners will be $8 and children's plates (12 and under) will be $6.

The church is located at 19040 Garfield Rd., in Okmulgee.

For more information, call (918) 366-8450, email: info@kvncate.com or visit www.kvncate.com

Pickett Chapel UMC - March 31

SAPULPA — Pickett Chapel United Methodist Church Wild Onion Dinner will be Saturday, March 31 from 11-3 p.m.

The church is located five miles south of Sapulpa, at 17610 South Hickory.

Price is $8 per person and $4 for children 12 and under.

The menu includes wild onions, fry bread, sweet potatoes, grape dumplings, chicken or salt pork and cake for dessert and tea or coffee to drink.

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Premarital Education Workshop

Don't just have a wedding… have a great marriage!
On March 31st you will learn
• How to Strengthen Your Love-Life
• How to Effectively Manage Conflict
• How to Identify Hidden Expectations
• How to Clarify Marital Roles
• How to Deal with Differences
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• How to Deal With Finances
For more information or to register: NWAMARRIAGES.COM
Saturday, March 31, 2012
10 AM – 4 PM
Okmulgee, OK
Complimentary lunch is included but you must register
NWA HEALTHY MARRIAGES
It takes two.
Funding for this event was provided by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. Grant Number 90-FM-0023. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.

Summer Youth 2012

Accepting Applications: December 19 through March 2.
Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Youth Employment Program.

To apply call 918 732.7775 or 7776
Or 1800 482-1979 ext. 7775 or 7776

Deadline to get all the paperwork in to the office is March 16, 2012
No fax applications will be accepted. Must be a member of a Federally recognized tribe and between the ages of 16 and 21.

Muscogee Nation News

March 15, 2012
Vol. 42, Issue 6

Official semi-monthly publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

MCN is a nation on the 'move'

MNN/Gary Fife

Pictured above are General Services Administration employees Silas Baker and Mike Harjo who aided in the efforts of moving several offices on the Musogee (Creek) Nation Capitol Complex during the month of March.

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation has been making changes. Citizens will find many tribal officials and services in new locations.

The Office of the Principal Chief has moved from the tribal complex building to the tribal construction engineering building (next door to VASO). The offices of the Second Chief have also been relocated to the same building.

The Executive Director's office has been moved into the space just vacated by the Principal Chief and staff in the main building.

The Communications Department has moved to the former Trade and Commerce warehouse.

Trade and Commerce staff has been moved to the Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise located at 1018 S. Wood Drive.

Tourism and Recreation offices are now located in the Mvskoke Dome.

Tribal Construction is now in the main complex, along with the Geospatial Department.

Tribal Affairs is in the old Executive Director's space.

The Self-Governance staff is now working out of the Finance Building.

According to GSA, there may be more changes in the future.

Community forum and workshop set for March 23

Media Release
MCN Community Development

OKMULGEE — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community Research and Development will be hosting a community workshop Friday, March 23 from 9 a.m.-noon at the Mvskoke Dome located at the Claude Cox Omniplex in Okmulgee.

Following the workshop, Principal Chief Tiger will conduct a Community Forum at 1 p.m. All board members are encouraged to attend, as well as any interested community members.

Communities are asked to register the number of community members who will be attending by contacting the Community Research Department at (918) 732-7963. Registration forms should be submitted by March 16, 2012.

Okemah Community CEOFamous Marshall will conduct a presentation on Robert's Rules of Order.

Continental breakfast and lunch will be served.

Bradley-Smith nominated as first female municipal judge of Muskogee

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

MUSKOGEE — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Toni Bradley-Smith was recently nominated as the first female judge of Muskogee, outside of the federal court system. Smith received a seemingly fitting nomination by the city's youngest, mayor Tyler Hammons, and was voted in unanimously by the city council.

"Tyler called me because there was going to be a position, and asked me if I would be interested. I said, 'Absolutely, it's something I always wanted to do,' " said Smith.

Smith has had a warm reception. "Everyone has been very supportive. I hear people say, 'Finally we have a woman, how has it taken this long?' "

A native of Muskogee, Smith grew up going to the local public schools before leaving for Southern Methodist University in Dallas to begin her post-secondary education. "I graduated from there with a bachelor's in marketing. I went directly from there to Oklahoma University College of Law," she added.

She graduated from the law program at OU and returned to Muskogee. "I went into private practice here and continued that for about a year and a half to two years. I did a broad range of things," said Smith.

Smith still provides legal council for Armstrong Bank in Muskogee as a full-time position and works part-time as municipal judge. "I'm called to sit on the bench any time Bart Fite, our main municipal judge, is unavailable. When we do have court it's usually at 8:30 a.m., for about an hour, so it's not a huge time commitment. I get the experience of being a judge without having to give up this job, which I love."

She may be a native of Muskogee, but Smith is also a Muscogee (Creek) Native. Her roots in the jurisdiction she oversees run deep and her identification with her Indian heritage shares a similar depth.

"It's always been a part of my life. My Creek heritage comes from my mother's side of the family, and it has always been important to us to discuss being Creek. My grandfather, who was a wonderful man, was my symbol of the perfect person. He is where my Creek heritage comes from and he was always very proud," said Smith.

SEE JUDGE - 6

Special Election set for March 26-28, 2012

Media Release
MCN Election Board

OKMULGEE — In order to comply with Article VI, Section 2 of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Constitution, a Special Election will be held for Seat B in both Creek and Wagoner Districts.

The Filing Period for vacant seats is set for March 26-28, 2012.

The Special Primary Election will be May 5, 2012.

The Special General Election will be July 7, 2012, if necessary.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Constitution was recently amended to state representation of the National Council to be reduced from 26 representatives to 16 representatives by the end of 2013 with staggered terms.

A General Election was held Nov. 5, 2011 to fill vacant seats of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council for the Palen-Kolvpohkaken (17th) Session. George Tiger was sworn in to office as Principal Chief Jan. 2, 2012 and vacated National Council Representative Seat B (Creek District) with approximately two years remaining.

An election was held for one seat for the Wagoner District for the next four years, and one seat remains vacant.

For more information, contact the the MCN Election Board at (918) 732-7682.

MNN 2 - LEGAL

Tulsa Library Circle of Honor recognizes Kickingbird

MNN 3 - CALENDAR

MCN Southern Regional Offices Calendar

MNN 5 - PEOPLE

And Still the Waters Run: *Ft. Mims*

MNN 6 - LOCAL NEWS

Five Tribes Museum to host 'Art Under the Oaks' event

MNN 7 - COMMUNITY

Creek Citizen Minnie Charles turns 100

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Editor - Rebecca Landsberry
Editorial Assistant - Gary Fife
Reporter - Sterling Cosper

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Editorial statements appearing in ***The Muscogee Nation News***, guest columns and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of ***The Muscogee Nation News,*** its advisors or the tribal administration and are subject to editorial discretion. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Please contact our office for deadline of submissions to be considered for inclusion. ***The Muscogee Nation News*** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate ***The Muscogee Nation News*** in any regard.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed from Stigler, Okla., to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

To submit a change of address or a letter to the editor, call (918) 732-7720 or send e-mail to: wmurphy@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

Tulsa Library Circle of Honor recognizes Kickingbird for work as legal author

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

TULSA—Kiowa lawyer and author Kirk Kickingbird was inducted into the Tulsa Library's Circle of Honor, March 3., 2012 for his career of working in Native American law and as an author on tribal relations with the United States government. The Circle of Honor acknowledges Native people who have made significant contributions to the world and have enriched the lives of others.

He has served the Native American Legal Resource Center at the Oklahoma City University School of Law and was appointed as a special counsel on Indian Affairs to the governor of Okla. "It's really satisfying; I've worked for years to try to support tribes, and it feels like this is a 'thank you' for that," Kickingbird said.

A member of the Kiowa Gourd Clan, he was honored with a traditional Kiowa ceremony for his work in providing counsel to tribal, state and international governments on treaties.

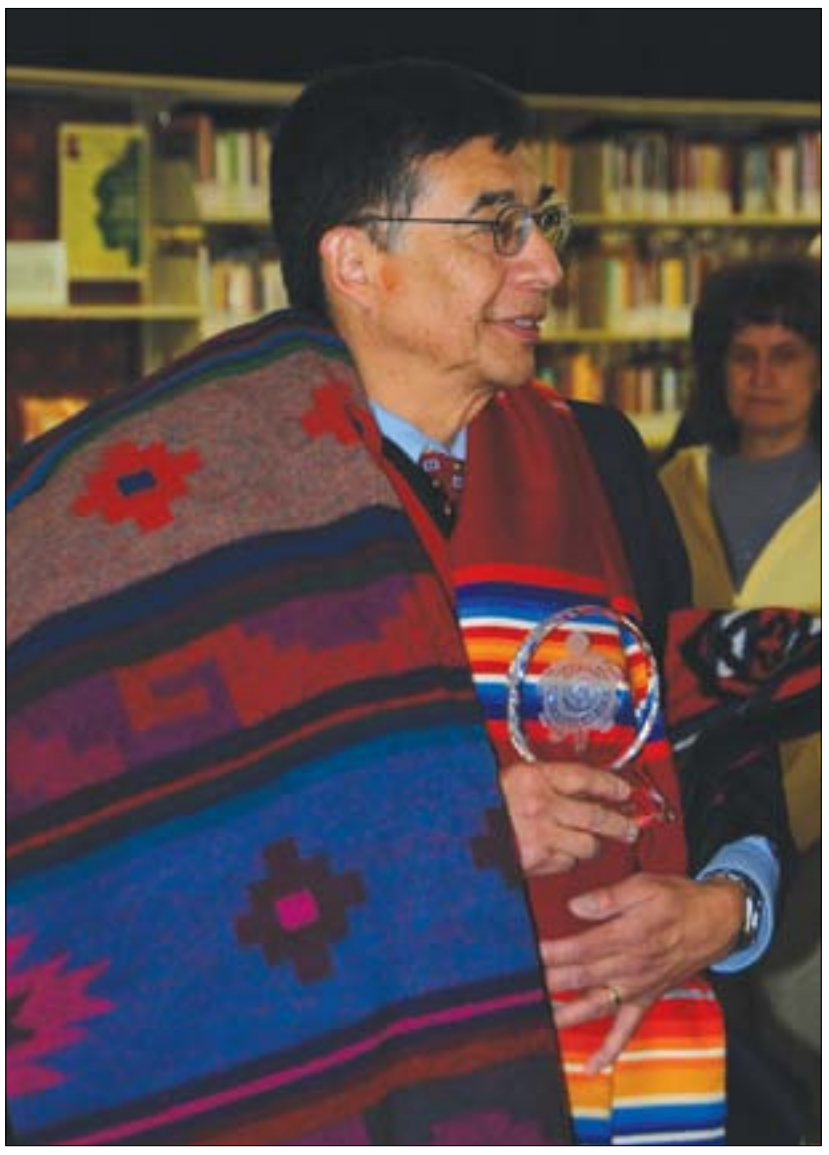
During his work in the 1970s and early 80s, Kickingbird was executive director of the Washington, D.C. Institute for the Development of Indian Law. That agency served as a legal resource on issues of American Indian legislature and national policy.

While in that post, Kickingbird wrote a number of books on Indian law. One of main points that he's been working to educate non-Native people is the basis for the relationship between the U.S. and tribal government.

"People don't understand that our recognition is really our political identity. We're parts of a government. The tribes have treaties with the United States government. The U.S. government only makes treaties with governments and Indian nations fall into that category, so it's a political right we have, a bargain and sale process, in which we got something and the U.S. got something. Usually it was land and resources, the right to share our resources and all we're asking for now, is the rent. It's more like that. People don't understand that. They think it's more like a gift, sort of like the welfare or something," he said.

For the past six years, Kickingbird has been an organizer and instructor in Nation Building for Native Youth, an Indian youth leadership program based in Scottsdale, Ariz. He currently practices law with the Oklahoma City office of Hoobs, Straus, Dean & Wilder, specializing in representing Indian tribes.

The Circle of Honor ceremony is part of a month-long observance of Native American culture and history at the Tulsa Central Library.



MNN/Gary Fife
Pictured above is Kiowa lawyer and author Kirk Kickingbird who was recently inducted into the Tulsa Library's Circle of Honor earlier this month.

Administration extends requests for resumes

Media Release
MCN Office of the Principal Chief

OKMULGEE — Principal Chief George Tiger has a new vision for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that includes upholding traditional Muscogee ways and values while at the same time elevating the Nation's government and business operations to unprecedented levels of effectiveness, accountability and service.

To accomplish this ambitious vision, we need to fill multiple leadership positions across the Nation's administrative, health, education, social services, law enforcement, judiciary, and business operations.

Potential candidates should possess the following:

- Experience
- Education
- Proven track record of leadership and accomplishment
- Demonstrate a winning attitude
- Work well in a team environment
- Strong commitment to the Administration's vision and goals for the Muscogee (Creek) people

If you meet the qualifications...

Submit your resume or C.V. to LSpaulding@MekkoTiger.com

Attach examples of your winning attitude, how you have made a difference, your leadership successes and how you have worked well in a team environment to achieve ambitious goals and a shared vision.

All positions are subject to Muscogee (Creek) Nation and Native American hiring preference.

Ce'puyacetos ce!

For more information visit the website at www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov.

Mvskoke Radio to adopt hour-long format beginning March 21

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE —The tribally produced half hour radio program, "Mvskoke Radio" will grow to a full hour on Wednesday, March 21.

Broadcast at 9:30 a.m., on KOKL 1240 AM in Okmulgee, Mvskoke Radio's full hour program will be the latest effort by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Communications Department to increase its service to Creek citizens.

The hour-long program will occur once a month until summer, when plans are to make all of the shows a full hour.

Timely interviews with tribal officials, cultural leaders, artists and special features will be included in the new, longer program. A special listener call-in show once a month will enable Creek citizens to ask questions on-air with radio guests. Those would include the Principal Chief, National Council Speaker and representatives and other special guests. Features such as the community news segment would be able to include community items.

For more information, contact Gary Fife, 918-732-7643.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In re the marriage of:
MILLIE HILL,
Petitioner,
vs.
ALVIN HULBUTTA,
Respondent.
Case No. DV-2012-16

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Alvin Hulbutta

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for divorce in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. DV-2012-, styled In re the Marriage of Mille Hill, Petitioner and Alvin Halbutta, Respondent. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to a *Decree of Dissolution of Marriage* from you based on the grounds of incompatibility.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear at the hearing on the 22nd day of March 2012 at 1:30 o'clock p.m. Failure to respond and/or attend will result in the allegations contained in the *Petition* being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in his *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 23rd day of Feb., 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District
By: Debbie King
(Deputy)

(SEAL)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF THE GUARDIANSHIP OF
N.S.P.,
DOB: 08/08/1927
an Alleged Incapacitated Person.
Case No. GD 2011-30

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: **Sandra Parish; Billie Poole; and Karlata Parnosky**

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for guardianship in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. GD 2011-30, styled In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Person and Estate of: N.S.P. The action alleges that the Petitioner is entitled to an *Order Appointing Guardian* of an incapacitated person.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the Petitioner and appear at the hearing scheduled for the 27th day of March, 2012 at 1:30 P.m. at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Mound Building, Hwy 75 and 56 Loop, Okmulgee, OK or the allegations contained in the *Petition* will be taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of Petitioner as prayed for in her *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 1st day of February, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District
By: Shalon Whitesmith
(Deputy)

(SEAL)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In re the marriage of McCLISH:
CATHY ELIZABETH McCLISH,
Petitioner,
vs.
MICHAEL McCLISH, SR.,
Respondent.
Case No. DV-2012-02

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Michael McClish, Sr.

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for divorce in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. FD-2012-02, styled In re the Marriage of Cathy Elizabeth McClish, Petitioner and Michael McClish, Respondent. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to a *Decree of Dissolution of Marriage* from you based on the grounds of incompatibility.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear at the hearing on the 25th day of May 2012 at 9:30 o'clock A.m. Failure to respond and/or attend will result in the allegations contained in the *Petition* being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in his *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 29th day of February, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District
By: Shalon Whitesmith
(Deputy)

(SEAL)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF THE GUARDIANSHIP OF
N.S.P.,
DOB: 08/08/1927
an Alleged Incapacitated Person.
Case No. GD 2011-30

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: **Sandra Parish; Billie Poole; and Karlata Parnosky**

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for guardianship in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. GD 2011-30, styled In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Person and Estate of: N.S.P. The action alleges that the Petitioner is entitled to an *Order Appointing Guardian* of an incapacitated person.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the Petitioner and appear at the hearing scheduled for the 27th day of March, 2012 at 1:30 P.m. at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Mound Building, Hwy 75 and 56 Loop, Okmulgee, OK or the allegations contained in the *Petition* will be taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of Petitioner as prayed for in her *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 1st day of February, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District
By: Shalon Whitesmith
(Deputy)

(SEAL)

Southern Regional Office March calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	-Employment & Training here daily 8am-5pm (405) 452-1155 -Food Distribution open daily (4005) 452-1175 -Housing here daily 8am-5pm (405) 452-1100/1106 -Reintegration (appointment only) 1-800-259-1059 -WIC (405) 452-1300			1	2
4	5 Employment & Training 8am-12pm Okmulgee 1pm-5pm Social Services 8am-5pm	6 Tax Commission 9am-3pm Lunch 11am-11:30am	7 National Council 9am-4pm Legal Services (appointment only) Citizenship 10am-3pm	8	9 WIC@Clinic 9am-4pm
11	12 Employment & Training 8am-12pm Okmulgee 1pm-5pm Social Services 8am-5pm	13 Tax Commission 9am-3pm Lunch 11am-11:30am	14 National Council 9am-4pm	15	16
18	19 Employment & Training 8am-12pm Okmulgee 1pm-5pm Social Services 8am-5pm	20 Tax Commission 9am-3pm Lunch 11am-11:30am	21 National Council 9am-4pm Legal Services 9am-3pm	22	23 WIC@Clinic 9am-4pm
25	26 Employment & Training 8am-12pm Okmulgee 1pm-5pm Social Services 8am-5pm	27 Tax Commission 9am-3pm Lunch 11am-11:30am	28 National Council 9am-4pm	29	30

Giddy up, River Spirit gamers!
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SPIN YOUR WAY TO
$100,000
every Friday, Saturday & Sunday
Through April 22
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CREEK NATION COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Summer Youth application deadline set for March 16

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Summer Youth Employment Program is accepting applications for the upcoming year.

The deadline for submitting applications is March 16, 2012 at the Human Development Employment and Training Office.

For more information, please contact 918-732-7775 or 7776. Interested participants may also call 1-800-482-1979 ext. 7775 or 7776. No fax applications will be accepted. Applicants must be a member of a federally recognized tribe and between the ages of 16 and 21.

Little Cussetah Wild Onion Dinner March 17

SCHULTER – Little Cussetah United Methodist Church will host their annual wild onion dinner Saturday, March 24, beginning at 11 a.m. Dinners will be $7 for adults and $5 for children. Price includes all-you-can-eat.

For more information, visit them on Facebook at Little Cussetah UMC or contact Paul Tecumseh at (918) 270-0213 or Nelson Harjo at (918) 752-7731.

Big Cussetah Wild Onion Dinner March 17

MORRIS — Big Cussetah Indian Methodist Church, located at 20554 Prarie Bell Rd., in Morris will host a wild onion dinner Saturday, March 17 from 11-3 p.m. Adults are $8 and children 10 and under eat for $5. Carryout orders are $8.

Parent Committee Grocery Bingo March 17

OKMULGEE — The OSU Parent Committee 2011-2012, is hosting a fund-raiser bingo at Okmulgee Indian Community Center Saturday, March 17.

Bingo starts at 1 p.m., with the food sale beginning at 11 a.m.

Most of the food items were donated by local businesses. Some of the items available will be homemade chili, desserts, chili-cheese hotdogs, Frito pies and popcorn.

We will also announce the winners of the Lucky Charm Contest.

For more information, contact the Parent Committe at (918) 304-0476 or (918) 752-1444 or by email at: lmbear@okstate.edu

Concharty UMC Wild Onion Dinner March 31

OKMULGEE — Concharty United Methodist Church will host a wild onion dinner Saturday, March 31 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Adult dinners will be $8 and children's plates (12 and under) will be $6.

The church is located at 19040 Garfield Rd., in Okmulgee.

For more information, call (918) 366-8450, email: info@kvncate.com or visit www.kvncate.com

Pickett Chapel Wild Onion Dinner March 31

SAPULPA — Pickett Chapel United Methodist Church Wild Onion Dinner will be Saturday, March 31 from 11-3 p.m.

The church is located five miles south of Sapulpa, at 17610 South Hickory.

Price is $8 per person and $4 for children 12 and under.

The menu includes wild onions, fry bread, sweet potatoes, grape dumplings, chicken or salt pork and cake for dessert and tea or coffee to drink.

Tulsa MCN Headstart raffle set for April 1, 2012

TULSA — Tulsa Muscogee (Creek) Nation Head Start is conducting a raffle for ballsticks donated by wood carver Ed Screechowl.

This raffle will help raise funds for tassels, yearbooks and photos for the Pre-K graduating class of 2012.

Tickets are $1 each or $5 for six. Drawing will be held April 1, 2012. Winner need not be present at the drawing to claim the prize.

For more information call (918) 237-6123 or (918) 296-0357.

OFIW to host Easter craft fair April 1, 2012

NORMAN — The Oklahoma Federation of Indian Women is holding a Native American arts and crafts market and Easter auction, April 1, 2012.

It will be open from 3-6 p.m. in the Warrior Room of the Thunderbird Casino located at 15700 E. State Highway, in Norman.

On sale and up for auction will be Easter baskets, crafts, gifts and more. Several Native American arts and crafts booths will be available. The event is open to the public.

For more information or booth space, contact Lisa Frazier at (405) 664-7060 or Nicole Walls at (405) 593-7060.

Springfield UMC Wild Onion Dinner April 7

OKEMAH — Springfield United Methodist Church will host a wild onion dinner Saturday, April 7, 2012 from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Plates for adults are $9 and $5 for children 12 and under for all you can eat, and will include a drink and dessert.

For more information call Ethel Humble at (918)-716-0190, or Carol Tiger at (918) 716-8267.

Sexual Assault Awareness Walk set for April 11

OKMULGEE — "Walk a Mile In Her Shoes" is the theme for the 2012 Sexual Assault Awareness Walk, set for April 11, 2012.

The event will begin at 1 p.m., at the MCN Mound building. It is sponsored by the MCN Family Violence Prevention Program.

For more information, contact Tina Qualls at (918) 813-6900 or email tqualls@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

Indian taco sale set for April 21

TULSA — Muscogee (Creek) attendees of the 2012 National Indian Conference on Aging will be holding an Indian Taco Sale fundraiser April 21, 2012 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The sale will be held at the Tulsa Creek Indian Community Center located at 8611 S. Union in Tulsa.

A taco, drink and dessert are $8, and a silent auction will also be held. Proceeds will be used to attend the coference.

For more information call (918) 298-2464.

2012 Muscogee (Creek) Nation tribal calendars now available to citizens

OKMULGEE — a 2012 tribal calendar featuring images of historic leader Opoethleyahola, ceremonial dancers, a traditional Christian church and the College of the Muscogee Nation is now available for free distribution to Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizens.

The "Visions of Our Ancestors" 2012 calendar includes National Council Planning Sessions, monthly meeting dates, tribal events (such as the Muscogee Nation Festival and Council Oak Ceremony) and the birthdates of the Chief and Second Chief.

The wall calendar measures 13" x 19" and is suitable for home or office use. A larger 24" x 36" calendar is also available for use by community centers and churches. These calendars are available free of charge at the MCN Public Relations office at the tribal complex (no mail deliveries please). Distribution of the large calendars is limited to one per community or church.

For more information, contact MCN Public Relations at (918) 732-7617.

CMN calls for commentary by April 21, 2012

OKMULGEE — The College of the Muscogee Nation is seeking comments from the public about the college in preparation for its periodic evaluation by its regional accrediting agency.

The CMN will host a visit May 21-23, 2012, with a team representing the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association.

The team will review the institution's ongoing ability to meet the Commission's Criteria for Accreditation.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding the college via mail to:

Public Comment on College of the Muscogee Nation, The Higher Learning Commission, 230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500, Chicago, IL 60604-1411

The public may also submit comments on the Commission's Web Site at www.ncahlc.org.

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs and must be must be in writing.

All comments must be received by April 21, 2012.

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And Still the Waters Run: *Ft. Mims*

George Windes
CMCA Historian

Photos courtesy/*George Windes/Ft. Mims Restoration Association*
Pictured above is "Fort Mims, A Major American Tragedy" (perhaps reflecting that the Creeks won on their own ancestral land). Below is a 2011 reenactment of the battle at Ft. Mims.

YORBA LINDA, Calif., — In the tragic history of the Muscogee Creek Nation, Fort Mims was a rare "significant victory." But to the rest of America (in the tumultuous 1810-1820 decade), it was an absolute "massacre of innocence." The truth is somewhere in-between. War is cruel and messy, always has been, always will be. The innocent do get killed and injured. This narrative is unsettling in the telling, since there is much (on the Redstick side) yet unknown.

A very important book has been written within the last few years; Conquering Spirit: Fort Mims and the Redstick War of 1813 - 1814, by Gregory Waselkov. It is the best read by far, of the Fort Mims story. It both identifies and gives a database catalog of several hundred souls whose mortal existence ended that tragic day in August of 1813, both within and without the fort. It is also quick to acknowledge a important happening that precipitated Fort Mims, a white militia attack on young Muscogeans who were resting at Burnt Corn Creek about a month earlier. The attack on Fort Mims was thus a retaliation action for the loss of treasured future warriors of the tribe.

Now for a brief history of the historic fort, which was really nothing but a rough one-acre log stockade constructed around the homestead of Samuel Mims near the Alabama River in Alabama. His neighbors were very often of mixed blood heritage, Native Americans who traded and visited there. The battle began August 30, 1813, when several hundred Redstick warriors attacked the woefully unprepared fort. Hundreds of nearby families and soldiers had gone there for safety the previous week. By the time the battled ended, more than 250 of them would be dead.

The fight began as the people of the fort were gathering for their noon meal. The main gates of the fort were open and there was a general lack of concern about the possibility of an attack. Slaves tried to warn the militia about seeing some painted Natives in the area the day before. One was publically beaten for his "lies." Suddenly a tidal wave of warriors led by Red Eagle (William Weatherford), stormed out of the woods and rushed the open gate and log walls.

The alarm was spread and all the men grabbed their arms. Major Daniel Beasley, Commander of the fort, died as he tried to close the gate. The battle raged though the afternoon. The fort occupants fought bravely, as did the Redsticks. Finally though, the house caught fire and Fort Mims fell. Some accounts push the dead within the fort from 250 to 500. Redstick dead estimates vary from 100 up to 300. Many slaves were captured (to continue on as Creek slaves). Perhaps 40 residents

of the fort escaped the carnage, by jumping into the waters of the nearby river.

The "Fort Mims Massacre," just as "Remember the Maine," or "Pearl Harbor," was soon a rallying cry for the people in three surrounding states. Soon three big armies converged on the Creek nation and the Redstick forces were cornered and defeated by Andrew Jackson at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend the following year.

The ruins of the fort were nearly lost in the following decades until a few local residents began an effort to save the famed site. Amongst them was Davida Hastie,

whose daughter, Lynn Thompson, would write an important early history entitled; William Weatherford, his Country and his People. And slowly a partial rebuilt wall, interpretive signs and picnic tables were introduced to the site. Fort Mims is now a state historic site. The five-acre site is located seven miles west of Tensaw, off State Highway 59 in Baldwin County, Alabama. A long-term project to recreate the entire log stockade was finished in 2010. And still more improvements are envisioned by the Fort Mims Restoration Association, as funds allow. A thousand visitors from many nations and nearly all the states visited in 2010.

Creeks who like to travel should consider visiting this important place, to feel of its sadness, and reflect upon what it meant by being a sovereign Nation. I've stood there; walked the paths, escaped to the river (as survivors did) and fought (with painted face), alongside my great great great grandfather. Numerous books about his life have been published. A favorite, Searching for Red Eagle, authored by Mary Ann Wells of Albuquerque, N.M., takes you on a shotgun journey to the places and stories tied to the famed warrior. She touches ancient tree roots and stone cairns in reliving the legend of "Billy" Weatherford, taught her as a child by her uncle Billy Dees. I have followed her guide.

My great grandma, Josie Freeman, told a few stories about her famed grandfather. Once she stood between her son and a grandson (being disciplined for fighting). Her strong words; "Red Eagle never LIED, but he FOUGHT for what he believed in." The elders have always spoken great truths in our Creek culture, if we would but listen.

An annual commemoration and reenactment is held at the site each August. The one planned for this year will be held on the weekend of August 25/26. Held over two days, events include reveille, special music, an opening ceremonies gun salute, the reenactments of the Battles of Burnt Corn and Fort Mims, a tomahawk throw, etc. There are displays on archeological finds and food vendors are available. In addition, Sunday morning brings an open-air church service.

Fort Mims happened 199 years ago. Let us never lose the proud Muscogee Nation our ancestors died for. To our elders who have retold the story and become sand in the last two hundred years, MVTO!

Windes has been an active member of the California Muscogee Creek Association for over a decade and is serving on the Board as historian. He may be reached at: georgewindes@gmail.com

11th Annual

"TO BRIDGE A GAP" CONFERENCE

APRIL 2 – 5, 2012

Choctaw Casino and Resort

"To Bridge A Gap"

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma will be hosting the 11th Annual "To Bridge A Gap" Conference, in collaboration with the National Forest Service. This conference is designed to strengthen Government-to-Government relationships between federal and state agencies, and federally-recognized Tribes with interests in our forests.

Topics for this year include:

- Preconference Tribal Meeting with FCC
- Regional Executive Session with Forest Leaders and Tribal Leaders
- Introductory GPS/GIS Preconference Hands-On Workshop
- NEPA and Section 106: Procedures and Issues
- Traditional Cultural Properties and Sacred Sites
- NAGPRA: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
- Tribal and Federal Collaborative Partnerships
- FCC Consultation Meeting with Tribes
- Tribal Relations Report
- National Historic Preservation Program: Updates and Application Process

Guest Speaker: TBA

Several federal and state agencies will be present including National Forest Service from various regions, Army Corp. of Engineers, State Historic Preservation Offices, National Park Service, and National Resources Conservation Service.

The "To Bridge A Gap" Conference is a wonderful opportunity to discuss tribal relations and cultural preservation issues, and participate with others who are dedicated to improving this relationship.

For more information please contact Dr. Ian Thompson, Choctaw Nation Historic Preservation Department at (580) 924-8280 Ext. 2216, ithompson@choctawnation.com, or Johnnie Jacobs at (580) 924-8280 Ext. 2559, jjacobs@choctawnation.com.

Conference registration and hotel information can also be found on the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma website at **www.choctawnationculture.com/TBAG2012.**

McIntosh Co., seeks CASA volunteers

Media Release
McIntosh Co., CASA

EUFAULA — Today and every day in America, five children will die from abuse and neglect. Since 2010, In Oklahoma alone, 10 children have died at the hands of their own parents or caretakers. Currently, in McIntosh County, we have children who, through no fault of their own, have suffered abuse and neglect and are, living with relatives, foster parents, or in youth shelters , while the Department of Human Services and the Court system deal with their cases. These children often have no one, outside the system, to speak up for them in court and some have even fallen "through the cracks" once inside the system. If you care about what happens to these children, enough to want to do something about it, then C.A.S.A. (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Southeast Oklahoma would like to give you that opportunity. CASA's are ordinary people who care about kids. You don't have to be a lawyer or a social worker to qualify. You just have to be an adult willing to stand up for an abused and neglected child. As a CASA volunteer you receive official training from professionals in the field to get you familiar with the court and child welfare system and other important aspects of the cases including child development, interviewing techniques and cultural competency. You are then qualified to be court appointed by a judge. You'll be given the tools and personal support you need to aid your search for as much information as possible about a child in order to achieve an objective viewpoint of his/her welfare.

With about 50 per cent of the children served being boys, we have a special need for more men to stand up and be counted as "everyday heroes" and role models in the lives of these future men. One person could make all the difference in the world to a child suffering from abuse or neglect. That person could be you.

If you're interested, classes are forming now to begin in the next two months. Please call CASA of S.E. Oklahoma in Eufaula, at (918) 689-9200 or for more information go to;

Oklahomacasa.org or our national website at casaforchildren.org

CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day set for March 20, 2012

Submitted by John F. (Hawk) Co-Cke', educator and Prevention Specialist
MCN HIV/AIDS program

OKMULGEE — Tuesday, March 20, marks the seventh observance of National Native American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

This day is set aside to acknowledge that HIV continues to threaten the health and well-being of our Native communities and to encourage all of us to support and advocate for HIV education and services.

American Indians and Alaska Natives rank third in the rate of new HIV infections, as compared to all other races and ethnicities.

HIV/AIDS exists in urban and rural populations, yet many Native people with HIV are not aware of their status. American Indians and Alaska Natives face greater health disparities and risk factors for HIV, such as higher rates of substance abuse and sexually transmitted infections.

These statistics illuminate the need to raise awareness about HIV and demonstrate the need for ongoing initiatives that help make HIV testing, education and health care a routine part of our health services.

We all need to work together to stop this disease. I encourage you to educate yourself and your community about how HIV is spread, prevented, and treated.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation has joined the fight of this disease by sponsoring an educational booth with confidential HIV testing March 20 at the Claude Cox Omniplex from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Visit the booth for more information.

Remember, one way to protect the future our people is to take the test. We have the ability to make a difference.

MORTGAGE DOWN PAYMENT & CLOSING COST PROGRAM

FIRST TIME HOMEBUYER EDUCATION CLASS

Because many Native American families find it difficult or overwhelming to purchase their first home The Mortgage Down Payment and Closing Cost Program is offering a first time homebuyer education class which will help prepare our Native American families for the road to homeownership.

The Homebuyer Class will feature guest speakers knowledgeable in the various aspects of buying a home. From credit and loans to finding the right house and finalizing the deal.

UNDERSTANDING CREDIT AND CREDIT SCORES	Mr. David Showalter Data Facts
LOANS	Mr. Jon Kennedy, Loan Officer Bank 2
REAL ESTATE	Ms. Shelly Rivera, Realtor, Keller-Williams,
ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS	Mr. James Williams Environmental Specialist II MCN Environmental Dept.
INSURANCE	Phyllis Little Martin AMERIND Risk Services
CLOSINGS	Ms. Debbie Haynes, Closer OLT Real Estate Closing Co.

March 24th, 2012
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

FOR PRE-ENROLLMENT CONTACT
LADONNA NORTHCROSS
918-549-2554, M-F 8AM-5PM

MCN HOUSING DIVISION
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Five Tribes Museum to host 'Art Under the Oaks' event

Gerald Wofford
MCN Communications Manager

MUSKOGEE — For Mary Robinson, preparing an artistic event at the Five Civilized Tribes Museum is nothing new.

Robinson, who is the Museum's Executive Director, has been preparing for two special events to be held in April as part of 'Art Under the Oaks.'

"It is the plan of the museum that these events will showcase the best in Native American art," says Robinson. "We are so excited to have these events happening in the month of April," the Art Under the Oaks Art show begins April 1 and runs through April 30.

Robinson wants the public to know that although both events sound similar, they each have their own unique identity. "This is all about the cultural arts, the pottery, the textile, the basketry, the weaving," says Robinson when describing the art show, "it's always a beautiful show because it's all about three-dimensional art."

"The festival, which happens on April 21-22 is also a great time to visit the museum," says Robinson, "because you will not only be treated to the beauty of the Museum, but you will also be treated to historical re-enactments, flute players, basket weavers and don't forget all the wonderful artists of the five tribes and there is also be the traditional foods that will be served."

Robinson made sure to point out that Muscogee (Creek) bow-maker Mike Berryhill and river cane basket weaver Mary Edwards Smith will be part of the festival agenda.

Although the calendar will be full in April, Robinson wants everyone to know there are many other happenings throughout the year, such as the 'Student Art Show,' which is currently going on.

"This show allows young artists from grades 7-12 to begin to show their art work; we are currently displaying 95 pieces from 14 area schools."

Photo courtesey/Five Civilized Tribes Museum
The Five Civilized Tribes Museum will host thier annual 'Art Under the Oaks' exhibit April 1-30 in Muskogee.

Robinson added that it is interesting to see how budding artists begin their careers and how she has seen many of them mature and display their artwork at the museum when they are older. "Many times this is an opportunity for the young artist to learn more about their culture and display it in this art form."

Robinson mentioned names such Virginia Stroud, Joan Hill and Enoch Kelley Haney as beginning artists who were involved with the Museum in the student art show.

Robinson said the Museum will feature the 'Competitive Art Show,' which involves two-dimensional art and sculpture, showcased throughout the month of July.

Events continue in September with an event that was only created two years ago. "Our Five Tribes Story Conference will be Sept. 21-22," says Robinson, "we invite 12 of the best Native American authors including Robert J. Conley, Clara Sue Kidwell and Rylla Askew, also artists, poets, musicians, filmmakers and historians for two days discussing and preserving the culture of the Five Tribes.

Robinson says the unique twist to this conference is that the general audience gets to participate and share their views as well. "It's a wonderful time, it's a relaxing time, because at the end of the weekend, you don't know who the presenters are and who is in the audience because they all become a family of one."

Robinson credits artists and event co-hosts Tim Tingle and Greg Rogers with the creation of the conference. In November, the Museum will begin to wind the year down with the 'Masters Art Show.' "This will be a great time to view some of the artists who dedicated their lives to preserving the heritage and culture of their tribes through the arts," says Robinson proudly.

The Five Tribes Museum is located on Agency Hill, 1101 Honor Heights Drive in Muskogee.

For more information, call (918) 683-1701 or visit www.fivestribes.org

Judge

Continued from Page 1

The combination of Smith's family along with Muskogee's own deep connection with Creek history helped form these roots. "It has been something my Mom made sure I knew about. Here in Muskogee we have the Five Civilized Tribes Museum. That was something we would go to. I'm lucky to have that here, and to have a parent that knew all about that history."

She continued by explaining how profound her mother's influence has been in all aspects of her life. "I never grew up thinking I didn't want to work. I wanted to be like her, she was a huge influence on me. She was well respected by her peers. She worked very hard, and gave me a good example of a professional woman," said Smith.

Smith also cited another big influence in her life within her own age group.

"My best friend Hilary Matthews Hansen. We grew up together and she now lives in Washington D.C. She works for a firm as a lobbyist. Her, her mother and sister are all really strong women. They had such an effect on me personally and professionally. They helped grow me into a broad-minded woman," said Smith.

Smith expanded upon the mindset she influenced by Hansen. "I'm very accepting of all different beliefs and personalities. I think a lot of that was because of Hilary. She taught me to think differently and globally. We still talk every single day. She influences, mentors, encourages and helps me."

Smith has done some teaching of her own through the years. It was her time at SMU in Dallas, where she completed her undergraduate studies, when she realized how unique her upbringing was. She took this as a good opportunity to show her peers what Native life was really about.

Photo courtesey/Smith
Toni Bradley-Smith was recently nominated as the first female judge of Muskogee in 2012.

"That's the first time I realized that everybody didn't really know about the Five Civilized Tribes or really about the Indian communities at all. It was really just a good opportunity to show them that I'm Creek. No, I don't live in a teepee, or any of these other stereotypes," said Smith.

Although she currently resides in Muskogee, Smith is still showing friends from other parts of the country what it means to be Muscogee (Creek). "A lot of my friends are from California, and many of them have this different idea of Oklahoma and Indians. It is very good to show them that their stereotypes are completely wrong."

Smith also has some instruction for Muscogee (Creeks) who living in or looking to Oklahoma and wish to practice law. "If you are going to live here you need to understand the different tribes and sovereignty. With all the casinos and all the nations becoming more prominent and having money, the tribes are more able to have a voice and an impact on people."

She continued with more advice to Muscogee (Creeks) who wish to get into the legal profession. "I would definitely take advantage of all the grants and scholarships that are out there. There is so much money available, make the effort to look for it."

Smith and her husband are both in the legal field, and may be raising two legal-savvy children of their own. "We have two boys. They both completely understand what mom and dad do. We've caught them before playing like they're in a courtroom. They decide who's going to be a judge and who's going to be an attorney. I guess that's what happens when you grow up in a house with two attorneys, it's their normal."

A proud citizen of the community she serves, Smith described her sentiments towards her new appointment. "I really feel like I am living in such a surreal moment being appointed as a judge. I'm really proud I'm getting to do it in my hometown."

Smith hopes that these values that have been passed down through the family to her children are something they will share as well. "I tell them to try to be a good influence on people in this community not just in Muskogee but everywhere. Be a good person, someone they want to be around and they respect. Be someone that they admire not for what you have, but for the kind of person you are."

Creek Citizen Minnie Charles turns 100

MNN/*Gerald Wofford*

Pictured above left to right are Public Relations Coordinator Edwin Marshall, Roger Barnett, Minnie Charles, and Principal Chief George Tiger. Muscogee officials presented Muscogee (Creek) citizen, Minnie Charles with a Pendleton Blanket for her 100th birthday.

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

EUFAULA — On Monday, Feb. 13, 2012, Principal Chief George Tiger, Second Chief Roger Barnett, Public Relations Coordinator Edwin Marshall, and Eufaula Mayor Selina Jayne-Dornan, along with family and friends all gathered at Wellington Hills Nursing Home in Eufaula to help celebrate the birthday of Muscogee (Creek) citizen Minnie Charles.

Charles, Tiger, and Barnett are all members of the Muscogee (Creek) Wind Clan. She has been a citizen of Eufaula most of her life and is fluent in the Mvskoke language.

Barnett expressed his enthusiasm toward this occasion. "It is wonderful to see our elders so spiritually blessed, and reach this milestone in their lives. It is our honor to be a part of this celebration for a full-blood citizen. She has certainly given the creator the respect and recognition he deserves and her life is certainly an inspiration that the good Lord is still at work."

Creek youth has educational proposal passed by Higher Ed Forum

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

BROKEN ARROW — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Kaylee Morrison, 16, recently had a proposal passed by the Higher Ed. Forum of Northern Oklahoma creating a student leadership camp for high school students in Tulsa and surrounding area schools.

"One of my teachers nominated me for a student leadership camp, but it was out of state and really expensive. We wanted to start a leadership camp here so it could help more than one person. We found Pam Pittman, and she said I should write a proposal for the Higher Ed. Forum," said Morrison.

Pittman, who is on the forum, pointed out the uniquity and innovation of this young Creek citizen. "We have had graduate students present proposals for internship projects. This is the first high school student proposal that we've had. So she's really carving new territory."

According to their website, the Higher Ed. Forum is a group of nine post-secondary institutions within Northeastern Okla.

Pittman gave a more in-depth explanation of the forum. "We collectively wanted to see what we could do to pool resources and bridge high schools to post-secondary schools. We are a front door for creating academic-based projects. We have projects that are presented to the Higher Ed. Forum in front of the nine institutions and three school districts."

She continued by telling about the day Morrison gave her proposal. "In Kaylee's case, she did great job. She stood up in front of 85 people and told her story. There were a lot of questions and answers and she was very poised, and really spoke from her heart."

Morrison's grandmother Nancy Smith explained what the proposed camp might include. "All day they would have a bunch of motivational speakers, and workshops. They may also have a lunch and memento. She may just want to help the kids discover leadership skills they already have and help them put those into practice," she said.

Pittman described the arrangements of the seminar in further detail. "It will be a one day workshop, it will be every fall, and our first one in 2012 will be in Broken Arrow."

Northern State University in Broken Arrow is one of the nine institutions on the forum, and one of many who volunteered to help Morrison host and structure the camp. "NSU immediately said they would like to host this event. This leadership seminar has 15 individuals who signed up, across all of the higher ed. institutions to be an advisor to Kaylee and her project," said Pittman.

Individuals from the institutions within the forum will not be the only people involved in creating this event. High school students from multiple districts will have candidates chosen from them to attend the camp, and a select group of students from each school within these districts will be chosen to help create the camp as well.

"The team working on the event will be 10th through 12th graders. The students already have the committee formed. We will rotate where the meetings are so that the students can see each other's high schools," said Pittman.

The idea behind having the students work on the project as well as attend is a strategic plan designed to create as broad of an educational experience as possible. "We are working on creating a quality experience for students who are planning this event. To develop skills working in a group," said Pittman.

According to Pittman, having the students within the committee rotate schools is all part of this quality and well-rounded educational experience. "It is a diverse group process involving different school districts. It is going to require some really great dialog and finding a way to collectively work together to keep those goals."

Diversity within the presentation is also something Pittman encouraged the student committee to include. "One thing we want the students to consider is having some panels. With community leaders from different locations, to show what they experience culturally."

Morrison's own cultural background is something that greatly interests her. She is on the volunteer list for the Indian Education Program affiliated with Broken Arrow Public Schools, and plans to attend events held by the Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative. "I'm very interested in the Creek way of doing things," she said.

Pittman testified about the merits of Morrison's relationship with her grandmother. "We don't want to lose sight of the role of Kaylee's grandmother, Nancy. That is a great example of a grandmother really caring and staying invested in her granddaughter's life. Nancy has been part of the conversation, but she has not taken over. This is an example of how you can be. Talk to your children and find out what their goals are."

Morrison has been in the National Honor Society for the last two years. Along with practicing for color guard and planning the leadership seminar, she will be attending medical camp this summer. Her goal is to become a surgeon, and she is considering cardiology as a specialization.

Morrison might be establishing an early legacy with her Annual High School Leadership Seminar. "Pam told me it would be cool in like 10 years if I would come back and be like a guest speaker. That would be awesome if it would last that long," she said.

In his inaugural address, Principal Chief George Tiger referred to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation as "a leader and innovator among all sovereign tribal nations." As an individual Creek citizen, Kaylee Morrison is the member of the next generation of citizens who have maintained this tradition of innovation.

Tiger also stated in that same address, " ...we will ensure our tribe has a bright and progressive future – a credit to the elders who envisioned, laid the foundation, and sacrificed to achieve it and to the you who will one day hold the leadership reins."

Smith is a great example of these elders who have laid the foundation, and Morrison is an example of the youth who have already taken the leadership reins.

Veterans' Scoop:

Service, Trauma, and PTSD

Laura Savage, LPC, LADC
BHS Clinician, Sapulpa Clinic

OKMULGEE — Native Americans serving in the military today carry on a time-honored tradition continued from the first settlers on this continent to the ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Historically, Native Americans have enlisted in the military at a greater per capita rate than that of any other ethnicity and have proven themselves to be outstanding warriors.

Incidentally, there are currently 28, or more, Native American Medal of Honor Recipients.The Medal of Honor is the highest award of military valor.

There are also many Native American recipients of the Purple Heart Award. Many soldiers are physically wounded or even killed while serving our country. Others have wounds that are not so easy to see such as depression, anxiety, addictions, and traumatic rrain injury. Many have Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Not everyone who goes through trauma will get PTSD, but keep in mind that good treatments are available even if you only have some PTSD symptoms. If you have been through a traumatic event, it may be difficult to talk about your experiences. For this reason the National Center for PTSD staff have put together the checklist below.

Brief checklist of trauma symptoms

Check the symptoms below that you experience. Include symptoms you have even if you are not sure they are related to a traumatic event.

I experienced or witnessed a traumatic event during which I felt extreme fear, helplessness, or horror.

The event happened on (day/month/year).

What happened?

1. I have symptoms of re-experiencing or reliving the traumatic event:

• Have bad dreams or nightmares about the event or something similar to it

• Behave or feel as if the event were happening all over again (this is known as having flashbacks)

• Have a lot of intense feelings when I am reminded of the event

• Have a lot of physical sensations when I am reminded of the event (for example, my heart races or pounds, I sweat, find it hard to breathe, feel faint, feel like I'm going to lose control)

2. I have symptoms of avoiding reminders of the traumatic event:

• Avoid thoughts, conversations, or feelings that remind me about the event

• Avoid people, places, or activities that remind me of the event

• Have trouble remembering some important part of the event

3. I have noticed these symptoms since the event happened:

• Have lost interest in, or just don't do, things that used to be important to me

• Feel detached from people; find it hard to trust people

• Feel emotionally "numb" and find it hard to have loving feelings even toward those who are emotionally close to me

• Have a hard time falling or staying asleep

• Am irritable and have problems with my anger

• Have a hard time concentrating

• Think I may not live very long and feel there's no point in planning for the future

• Am jumpy and get startled easily

• Am always "on guard"

4. I experience these medical or emotional problems:

• Stomach problems

• Intestinal (bowel) problems

• Gynecological (female) problems

• Weight gain or loss

• Pain, for example, in back, neck, or pelvic area

• Headaches

• Skin rashes and other skin problems

• Lack of energy; feel tired all the time

• Alcohol, drug, or other substance use problems

• Depression or feeling down

• Anxiety or worry

• Panic attacks

• Other symptoms (list them)

Summing it up

These are all natural reactions to unnatural, even horrific, circumstances such as war. The stresses of military service can

adversely impact people of all ages, races, ranks, and education levels. It affects those who serve and those who love

them. If you, or someone you know, has these, or other, symptoms, help is available. Psychological wounds, like

physical wounds, can be treated. The caring, professional clinicians at MCN Behavioral Health are well-equipped to

provide counseling, education, support, and referrals to veterans and to their families.

Veterans…know that you are not alone and have not been forgotten; it's not a sign of weakness to reach out for help…

it's a sign of strength…the same strength that led you into battle will lead you safely home and to wellness again. Don't

suffer needlessly, professional and confidential help is readily available. For more information and/or to schedule an

appointment to see a mental health and/or substance abuse professional, contact Behavioral Health at 918-758-1910.

We have offices in Okmulgee, Okemah, Wetumka, Eufaula, Sapulpa, and Coweta to serve you.

MCN Veterans' Scoop features articles and updates from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs (ODVA) and other credible sources.

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Coming and Going in Indian Country

by Joy Harjo

It's early spring. Wild onions are beginning to sprout in my yard here in Glenpool, and the birds are all on the hunt for mates. There's a Robin family that has been here for years. They know my sister Margaret and her family and have noticed that they are no longer living here. They have been checking me out and I have to tell them who I am, where I've been, and that I will be the one staying here. Once I tell them with my mind, they fly off, satisfied. They are probably the 30th generation. Basically this yard is their territory. I will have to fit myself in. The same goes for the Redbird family here. They sing every morning and help me put my feet on the ground and keep going.

Sam Proctor asked me when I'm having a party. I will and everyone will be invited. (Especially you, Sam.) And there will be music. I've always loved the story of my grandfather Monahwee (Menawa) who when visited by a government agent on official business, came out to properly greet him then excused himself by telling the agent that he was partying with his people and wouldn't be done for a few days. He met with the agent two days later.

Now, that's a good reminder for many of us. When we're about to let our last breath go on this earth, will we be regretful about paperwork, emails or Facebook, or missing a sale at Kohl's? What will we wish we had done? What words are we carrying that need to be said? What could we do to lift the burden of someone? A good party can be a tonic for everyone. We're human beings. We light up by sharing stories, songs, laughter, and even crying together when we need to grieve. And dancing feeds all your systems with energy. Music lifts us up.

My memoir Crazy Brave will be officially out in July so I may have the party between June and July. The Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame has offered their facilities. I'll let you know. Gary White Deer also has a memoir coming out sometime this year and a party between us is also appealing. I got a sneak preview. His memoir, Touched by Thunder is witty, funny and insightful, in a very Mvskoke way (he's Choctaw with Mvskoke relatives).

When I was down in Mexico in the town of San Miguel de Allende I kept thinking of our people. The way I understand it is that some of the migration paths came up from the south. Others of us came up from the earth, and some arrived in our traditional homelands from the West. I saw Mvskoke-looking people everywhere, though most were officially Mestizo. To claim yourself as "Indio" is as demeaning as it was in our parent's generations. In fact, when I tried to get a person of the tribal people indigenous to the area there to open my performance, I was told by a conference official "there are indigenous people, but they aren't really active here anymore". I knew that wasn't true because I'd seen them all through town. Someone else confirmed later that yes, there are indigenous people there with living cultures.

A beautiful young Huichol woman attended the conference where I performed and spoke. Her culture was alive in her. She, like many others, was embracing her cultural language and knowledge, despite the prevailing colonial attitude toward the "Indio." She was concerned, as were many, about the plan for a Canadian oil company to construct a huge pipeline through Mexico. Some things don't change, like the attitude of destroyers that it's alright to run a pipeline through a country, break up the land, destroy peoples and cultures, and suck out of excessive amounts of oil, gas, coal or uranium that were never meant to be pulled out of the earth in such quantities.

Before I forget, there was a fiesta there, a party in honor of the speakers, who also included Margaret Atwood and Elena Poniatowska. There were Spanish and Indian dancers, mariachi bands, folk dancing, lots of good food, and fireworks. I celebrated with everyone.

And I celebrate spring as I write this. Those wild onion dinners are coming up—time for a good party!

2012 MCN Election information

Media Release
MCN Election Board

OKMULGEE — VOTER REGISTRATION ELIGIBILTY

- ENROLLED CITIZEN
- 18 YEARS AND OLDER

ENROLLED CITIZENS; IF YOU ARE NOT REGISTERED A VOTER OF THE TRIBE CONTACT THE ELECTION BOARD BY CALLING 918/732-7631 OR 732-7736. THE REGISTRATION CLERK WILL MAIL YOU A VOTER'S REGISTRATION FORM OR YOU CAN COME BY THE ELECTION BOARD OFFICE LOCATED AT THE MAIN COMPLEX ACROSS FROM THE RECEPTION DESK. WE WILL NEED A COPY OF YOUR TRIBAL ENROLLMENT CARD.

VOTER ADDRESS

ALL MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION REGISTERED VOTERS (PRECINCT AND ABSENTEE VOTERS), CONTACT THE ELECTION BOARD OFFICE AT 918/732-7631 OR 732-7736 TO MAKE SURE YOUR VOTER INFORMATION IS UP TO DATE. VOTER, IF YOU HAVE MOVED PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE OF THE NEW ADDRESS. IF YOU KNOW OF ANY VOTER WHO IS DECEASED, PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE SO THAT HE/SHE CAN BE REMOVED FROM OUR FILES.

ABSENTEE VOTING

THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION ELECTION BOARD ENCOURAGES REGISTERED VOTERS TO REGISTER OR CHANGE THEIR VOTING STATUS AS AN ABSENTEE VOTER IF THE CITIZEN; WORKS ON WEEKENDS, HAS CHILDREN ACTIVITES ON SATURDAYS, WILL BE OUT OF TOWN ON ELECTION DAY, ANY ELDERLY WHO IS HOME BOUND AND ALSO TO MAKE IT CONVENIENT FOR ALL REGISTERED VOTERS.

ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST FORMS WILL BE MAILED OUT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE REQUEST FORM MAY BE MAILED, E-MAILED, FAXED OR BOUGHT IN PERSON TO THE ELECTION BOARD OFFICE. THE FORM MUST CONTAIN THE SIGNATURE OF THE VOTER. THE VOTER'S SIGNATURE IS VITAL TO THE ABSENTEE VOTING PROCESS.

ELECTION DATES:

PRIMARY ELECTION: MAY 5, 2012
POLLS OPEN: 7 A.M.-7 P.M.

ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST DEADLINE: APRIL 12, 2012 5 P.M.

ABSENTEE BALLOT MAIL OUT: APRIL 16, 2012

PRECINCT REGISTRATION DEADLINE: APRIL 25, 2012

ABSENTEE/PRECINCT REGISTRATION RE-OPENS: MAY 10, 2012

GENERAL ELECTION: JULY 7, 2012

POLLS OPEN: 7 A.M.-7 P.M

ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST DEADLINE: JUNE 14, 2012 - 5 P.M.

ABSENTEE BALLOT MAIL OUT: JUNE 18, 2012

PRECINCT REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JUNE 27, 2012 - 5 P.M.

PRECINCT VOTERS

ALL PRECINCT VOTERS; ON ELECTION DAY PLEASE VOTE AT THE PRECINCT POLLING SITE WHERE YOU ARE REGISTERED. IF UNSURE, CALL THE ELECTION BOARD OFFICE BEFORE ELECTION DAY AT 918/732-7631 OR 732-7736.

ELECTION DAY, IF YOU VOTE AT A DIFFERENT POLLING SITE OTHER THEN WHERE YOU'RE REGISTERED YOUR NAME WILL NOT BE LISTED ON THAT POLL BOOK. ALL POLLING SITES ARE OPEN 7 A.M. TO 7 P.M.

CANDIDATE FILING - MARCH 26-28, 2012: 9 A.M.-4 P.M., AT THE TRIBAL CONFERENCE ROOM, MCN COMPLEX

WHEN FILING, CANDIDATES WILL NEED THE FOLLOWING;

1. TRIBAL ENROLLMENT CARD
2. CASHIERS CHECK OR MONEY ORDER IN THE FEE AMOUNT OF $200.00

MADE PAYABLE TO: MCN ELECTION BOARD

3. CREEK NATION VOTER'S CARD WITH CURRENT ADDRESS
4. IF EMPLOYEED BY CREEK NATION AND ENTITY OF CREEK NATION A LETTER OF LEAVE STATUS FROM CREEK NATION PERSONNEL

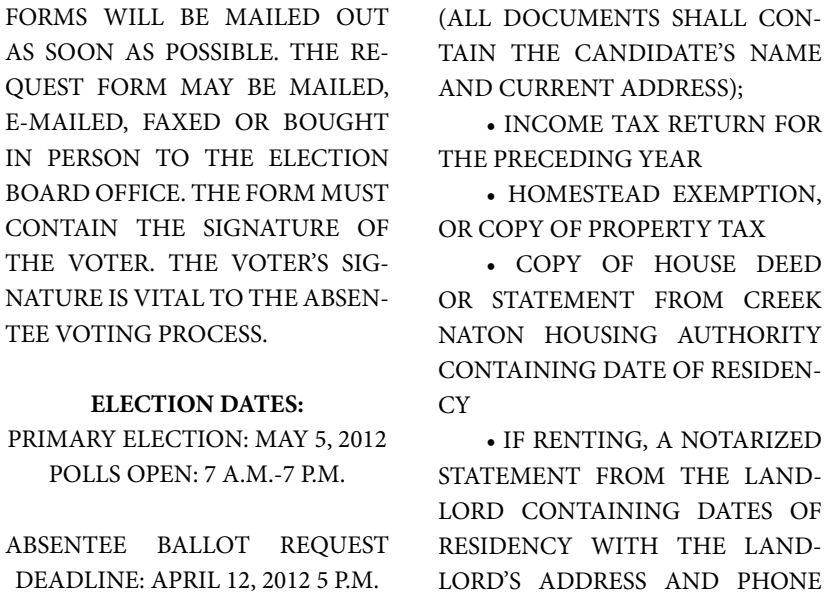
DOCUMENATION OF RESIDENCE MUST BE ANY TWO (2) OF THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS (ALL DOCUMENTS SHALL CONTAIN THE CANDIDATE'S NAME AND CURRENT ADDRESS);

- INCOME TAX RETURN FOR THE PRECEDING YEAR
- HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION, OR COPY OF PROPERTY TAX
- COPY OF HOUSE DEED OR STATEMENT FROM CREEK NATON HOUSING AUTHORITY CONTAINING DATE OF RESIDENCY
- IF RENTING, A NOTARIZED STATEMENT FROM THE LANDLORD CONTAINING DATES OF RESIDENCY WITH THE LANDLORD'S ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER.
- UTILITY BILL IN CANDIDATE'S NAME WITH CURRENT ADDRESS,

ONE BILLWILL BE ACCEPTED.

- DRIVER'S LICENSE/STATE I.D. WITH CURRENT ADDRESS

ALL DOCUMENTATION MUST CONTAIN THE SAME ADDRESS.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McHenry coaches Indians to 12-1 season

Darren DeLaune
MNN Sports Reporter

CATOOSA — Coach Joe McHenry is going into his 14th year as a Varsity Assistant Coach for the Catoosa Indians. Some wear and tear is usually easy to spot but this isn't with Coach McHenry. He admits that he has football in his blood and seems to be getting stronger and more passionate about coaching as time passes.

McHenry, who coaches the tight ends and defensive ends for the 4-A team are coming off a stellar 2011 season record of 12-1 with a return trip to the state semi-finals (loss to Clinton 27-24).

McHenry, born and raised in Coweta, has always been around the game of football. His father, Ron, was his coach growing up and when he went to college, McHenry wanted to be an elementary teacher.

The fire from his playing days reignited so he changed his major to Secondary Education to become a high school coach. "I ran away from the game for a little while." Said McHenry. "Now that I look back at it, I wanted to come back to the game."

One of the great things about coaching according to Joe, is the fact that his father is coaching alongside of him. "We get to work a lot together on defense." says McHenry. I played linebacker in high school and he was my position coach then and currently that is what he is coaching now with us (Catoosa)."

"This year was a great success for our team. Last season (2010) we were a team that could run and pass the ball, while this season (2011) we were primarily a run team. So to be able to change our game plan and our style of play shows how tough our players are and also shows what they are willing to do to be successful for this school." said McHenry.

One thing McHenry wants to instill in his players is hard work and discipline and to play hard, all "four quarters," no less than 100 percent on every single down. "What I always tell the kids is if you practice hard, you play hard in the game, I remind them that what they do in practice is what they will do in the game," says McHenry.

The love for this sport seems to run in the family. McHenry's brother, Steve, coaches the wide receivers and defensive ends at Ponca City High School. We can say this family is a "football family."

This season's Catoosa Indians won their first outright District Championships. In the past, they shared the District Championship with another team, but this season, the district belongs to them alone.

McHenry, also teaches 7th and 8th grade keyboarding and Introduction to Computers at school. In his spare time, when not around football, he spends it with family.

McHenry, Creek-Choctaw, resides in Broken Arrow.

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Funding for this event was provided by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. Grant Number 90-FM-0023. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.

Muscogee Nation News

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Communities gather for forum with administration

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MNN/Sterling Cosper

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tax Commissioner Jerry McPeak addresses community members at the Mvskoke Dome Friday, March 23 as part of the afternoon forum agenda with Principal Chief George Tiger and Second Chief Roger Barnett.

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE — Muscogee (Creek) Nation communities met with Principal Chief George Tiger March 23, 2012 at the Mvskoke Dome on the Claude A. Cox Omniplex.

During the meeting communities presented concerns to Tiger directly in an open forum setting.

In his inaugural address, Tiger said he would, "conduct community meetings" stating, "who best knows about their communities than the communities?"

Making good on this promise Tiger stood in the middle of the hardwood court surrounded by the representatives and addressed their concerns one by one.

Tiger also mentioned he would "spearhead a review of the following community issues" including; Title 11 facilities use agreement, the state of escrowed monies, and tobacco compacts. Community representatives raised all of these issues as concerns during this meeting.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Code Title 11 was the first of these issues to be addressed. Title 11 is Muscogee (Creek) Nation Code specifically regarding the communities: their charters, economic development, use of tribal land and buildings, and budget and financial management standards.

SEE FORUM - 6

Muscogee Nation News adds social media

Rebecca Landsberry
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee Nation News is now available online via social media sites Facebook and Twitter.

Fans can 'like' the MNN on Facebook and follow on Twitter. Check out the MNN for the latest in tribal and community news including a calendar and exclusive coverage of Muscogee (Creek) Nation events and information.

Friends can access MNN staff photos from the Facebook site as well as find links to other Native media.

The MNN looks forward to expanding the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's presence in the digital world.

For more information, contact the Muscogee Nation News at (918) 732-7720.

"Like" the MNN on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/MuscogeeNationNews

Follow the MNN on Twitter at https://twitter.com/#!/The_MNN

Tiger named president of Five Civilized Tribes Inter-Tribal Council

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE — Muscogee (Creek) Principal Chief George Tiger has been appointed president of the recently revived Inter-tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes by the other members of the council, with Cherokee Principal Chief John Baker serving as vice-president.

Tiger expressed his feelings on being elected the president of the reformed council.

"It is very humbling, indeed an honor. I remember going to an Inter-tribal Council meeting when I was 24 or 25 years old."

The decision to restore the council came after several leaders of the Five Civilized Tribes attended a midyear National Congress of American Indians conference in Washington, D.C., in January 2012.

"For many years the Inter-tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes was considered the major tribal council in the country. So, with my conversations and discussions with Chief Pile, Gov. Anoatubby and Chief Harjo I actually lobbied to see why we couldn't go back to that," said Tiger.

The council has been much less active in recent years.

"We've kind of slipped a little bit. For a number of years the Inter-tribal Council activities were minimized to the executive board. Sometimes the meetings were just a teleconference call," said Tiger.

Tiger also compared the council's recent minimal activity to how it functioned in previous years.

"It consisted of 25 members, five from each tribe, plus the opportunity to meet over a two-day period to come up with resolutions and position papers on behalf of the Inter-tribal Council. It was just a good time for networking."

The Inter-tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes consists of the Cherokee, Muscogee (Creek), Seminole, Choctaw and Chickasaw nations.

According to their official website, the Inter-tribal Council formed in 1949, and was the product of several meetings between leaders of the Five Civilized Tribes. The purpose of the council is outlined in their constitution, which states:

··· to secure to ourselves and our descendants the rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws of the United States of America, and the State of Oklahoma; to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian race; to preserve Indian cultural values; to enhance and promote general educational opportunity among members of the Five Civilized Tribes; to seek equitable adjustments of tribal affairs; to secure and to preserve rights under Indian Treaties with the United States; and other-wise to promote the common welfare of the American Indians.

SEE FIVE - 2

Knight and the Temptations to headline 2012 MCN Festival

Rebecca Landsberry
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE — The 38th annual Muscogee (Creek) Festival will take place June 21-24, 2012. Gladys Knight and the Temptations will hit the stage for Saturday night's entertainment following the conclusion of the 39th annual rodeo.

The MCN Tourism & Recreation page will be accessible from the main website at www.themuscogeecreeknation.com where event entry forms and information will be available.

Volunteer coordinators are needed for the following events:

- Adult 3-on-3 basketball tournament
- Youth 3-on-3 basketball tournament
- Parking
- Grounds/Janitorial

All food vendor spots have been filled. Arts and crafts vendor spaces are available. Contact Brian On-The-Hill at (918) 732-7993.

For more information on the festival, contact MCN T&R at (918) 732-7992.

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Letters to the editor

Muscogee Nation News
STAFF

Manager - Christina Good Voice
Editor - Rebecca Landsberry
Editorial Assistant - Gary Fife
Reporter - Sterling Cosper
Sports Reporter - Darren DeLaune
Contributer - Gerald Wofford

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Editorial statements appearing in ***The Muscogee Nation News***, guest columns and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of ***The Muscogee Nation News,*** its advisors or the tribal administration and are subject to editorial discretion. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Please contact our office for deadline of submissions to be considered for inclusion. ***The Muscogee Nation News*** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate ***The Muscogee Nation News*** in any regard.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed from Stigler, Okla., to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

To submit a change of address or a letter to the editor, call (918) 732-7720 or send e-mail to: wmurphy@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

Citizen recognizes dedicated employees

OKMULGEE — Great Employees are hard to find in any work environment, be it a corporation, government or even a tribal government. But the Muscogee Creek Nation is fortunate to have those kind of individuals who come to work everyday and give their best. Such a group is the personnel that work at the Okmulgee Nutrition Center. They go above and beyond to provide superior service to the elderly.

Just who are these exceptional workers anyway? They are: Head Cook Geneva K. Bair who travels from Dewar, Cook Assistant Sidney Long who lives on Wilson Road near Okmulgee, Cook's Aide Adam Pigeon who lives in Okmulgee, and coming from Tulsa is Home bound Deliverer Harriett Watson.

This hardworking team always has a smile and they personally greet the regulars by name as they go through the line. Another unique thing about this center: no paper is used. Real silverware, plates, glasses and cups are put out. This extra touch requires more cleanup work from these people, but they get it done and it's most appreciated.

These remarkable workers cook and serve 22,932 meals a year at the Center and another 12,888 for the home bound plus two other communities. That is a lot of meals to prepare in one year, and even more meals are going to have to be cooked and served when the new elderly housing is completed this year. That is going to be a huge challenge for this hard working team.

Right after a meal has been served Geneva will make her rounds, going from table to table to get feedback about the meal. One day, a colleague at my table asked how she does what she does. Geneva replied, "I love my work." I believe her.

Photo Courtesy/Bob Hicks

Pictured left to right are Okmulgee Elderly Nutrition employees: Cook's Assistant Sidney Long, Cook's Aide Adam Pigeon, Head Cook Geneva K. Bair, Home bound Deliverer Harriett Watson.

— Bob Hicks
Elderly Housing

Citizen comments of Kialegee Tribal Town casino

WETUMKA — I am not a member of the Kialegee Nation.

I am an enrolled member of the Mvskoke Nation, and thank you for what you have done for me.

This is my opinion:

Oklahoma – home of the Redman Indian Territory.

My feeling is that for a nation to better itself is a step forward.

In these days of higher prices for all items we all need an income. The people of Broken Arrow should know this will improve their town also and not try to deny services for this project.

This land (Okla.) was set-aside for all Indian nations.

As oil-gas was discovered and no more Indians were going to be borned (white government thinking) our land should be opened to anyone. Thus now we are few and our land even less.

I know not all Indians like casinos. But when I look for a betterment of all, we need money.

Thus go Kialegee Nation. I am behind you.

The people of Broken Arrow (which sounds like a good name for them) should remember we are persons with needs.

As always, if we were building the casino with all income to go to Broken Arrow residents, they would open their arms to its construction. We Indians should be like the thinking of Tecumseh, unite.

Thanks to the Sioux (Pine Ridge) for what they are trying to accomplish.

— Brent Harjo-Moffer
Thlewathle Tribal Town

Citizen hopes for reconsideration of no-pet housing policy

OKMULGEE — I have spent hours talking to various departments regarding housing. As a femme sole being 77 years old and on limited social security income I was hoping my nation Creek/Muscogee would be a place I could call home. At every turn I heard the mantra "We do not allow pets," "We do not allow pets."

I am very disappointed that at none of the housing do you allow pets. I have a 14 year old dog that I will not part with. Other nations do allow pets. I spoke to two other nations that accept dogs with a small deposit.

It is a medical/scientific truth that the elderly benefit greatly for having a dog or cat. It lowers blood pressure which I have and many seniors have, they calm people that are nervous or ill. In some cases a pet gives the elderly a reason to get up and move around, take the dog for a walk.

I hope the nation re-thinks this draconian policy. The Cherokee in a 40 unit for elderly retirement has at least eight people with dogs and the manager said there was never a problem.

I would like to be with my own Muscogee / Creek people. I sent application forms in not knowing "no pets".

Please rethink this policy.

Sincerely yours,

—Bea
Beatrice Grayson

Freedmen thank MNN for March 1, 2012 article

MOORE — Thank you for the recent article published on freedmen in the *Muscogee Nation News* on March 1, 2012.

The descendants of former Muscogee (Creek) citizens placed on the Muscogee (Creek) Freedmen roll have filed a Petition for Federal recognition as an American Indian Tribe.

This Band of Muscogee Creek Indian Freedmen welcomes inquiries from Muscogee citizens wanting to truly learn the history of Muscogee Creek Indian Freedmen.

Efforts to present evidence in support of documented Muscogee Creek Indian blood before the tribal court system were unanswered.

Muscogee (Creek) Indian Freedmen were loyal and in service (not slavery) to the Muscogee Nation for over 100 years. Service included holding office in the Supreme Court as Judges; the Senate as Senators; delegates to Congress (House of Kings and House of Warriors) and Creek Language Interpreters. Learn about the events which have shaped Indian Freedmen history in the Creek Nation.

On behalf of the Muscogee Creek Indian Freedmen Band: Gail M. Jackson, Advisor; Ron Graham, President; Jeffrey D. Kennedy, Vice President; Sharon Lenzy- Scott, Secretary and Rhonda K. Grayson, Treasurer.

Letter from MNN Editor:

OKMULGEE — Estonko, readers?

I've missed you all! We've been so busy and packed full of news, my column was pushed to the side. Thanks to all those who noticed its absence, especially faithful readers Robert Harris and Sharry Mouss.

I hope you're all getting your fill of wild onions this season and supporting our Mvskoke churches along the way.

My Grandma Gladys used to say she had the best wild onions on her land because they were the 'real Creek wild onions.' I miss her spunky personality and how she was never afraid to say what was on her mind.

We're taking MCN Communications to new heights with the addition of an hour-long edition of Mvskoke Radio as well as a Facebook page and Twitter account. We're excited for the new forums and hope they will continue to facilitate open communication between the citizens and the MCN.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Christina Good Voice has joined the department as Communications Manager and brings years of experience as a reporter and multimedia editor at the *Cherokee Phoenix*. We are happy to add her expertise and knowledge to the MNN.

If you have news, events or story ideas, please contact the Communications Department at (918) 732-7720 or email me at RLandsberry@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

The Mortgage Down Payment and Closing Cost Program

The Mortgage Down Payment and Closing Cost Program helps Native Americans become first time homeowners by providing financial assistance for acquiring a home mortgage.

To pre-qualify for the program, the applicant must meet the following requirements.

- Preference will be given to Creek Citizens.
- Be a first time home buyer or not have owned a home within five years of application.
- Live within the State of Oklahoma.
- Must not be an existing or former Mutual Help participant or NAHASDA Homebuyer/Lease with Option to Purchase regardless of Housing Service Area.
- Have an annual family income which does not exceed 80% of the national Median income as published by HUD.
- Be 18 years or older.
- Provide all requested information, which includes Citizenship cards for preference purposes, Social Security cards and employment verification for each working family member.
- Sign all required forms including the Consent for Disclosure of Information.
- Meet all credit check and financial obligations for loan assistance from an approved and certified financial lender.

FOR A PRE-APPLICATION CONTACT LADONNA NORTHCROSS AT 918-549-2554 OR VISIT THE WEBSITE AT www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov

The Mortgage Down Payment Assistance program Pre-Approval does not guarantee a Mortgage Loan from an Outside Lender.

Five

Continued from Page 1

The recent revival of the Inter-tribal council comes at a time when many serious issues are facing the various tribes. The Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations are currently dealing with water rights disputes with the state of Oklahoma and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is still addressing the issue of the Kialegee Tribal town's attempt to set up their own casino within Broken Arrow.

George Tiger

The council has already held discussions on the Kialegee issue. Tiger was in Washington D.C., on tribal business, and was unable to make it back in time to be a part of these discussions.

"Unfortunately the weather was not cooperative. We couldn't get into Dallas/Ft. Worth. We ended up back in Tulsa way after the meeting had adjourned," said Tiger.

The Inter-tribal Council as a whole met with Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Larry Echo Hawk March 14, 2012 at Hard Rock Casino and Hotel in Tulsa.

Another timely element of the council's re-formation is the recent dissolution of the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission.

"To all of us that are holding positions as chief and governor of the Inter-tribal group, we feel like the abolishment of the Indian Affairs Commission is one of the worst things the state could have done. I see the state of Oklahoma, with one of the largest Indian populations in the country, still behind the times. We want to change some of the thinking behind that," said Tiger.

Tiger continued by explaining the important impact the Five Civilized Tribes have on Oklahoma.

"We are one of the state's largest employers. We provide so much money to the state of Oklahoma's general fund, through compacts we have, and through what we do on a local level economically. It has been a tremendous effort by the tribes to not only take care of their tribal citizens, but to take care of Oklahoma as well."

CREEK NATION COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Springfield UMC Wild Onion Dinner April 7

OKEMAH — Springfield United Methodist Church will host a wild onion dinner Saturday, April 7, 2012 from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Plates for adults are $9 and $5 for children 12 and under for all you can eat, and will include a drink and dessert.

For more information call Ethel Humble at (918)-716-0190, or Carol Tiger at (918) 716-8267.

Fixico Benefit Grocery Bingo and Food Sale

HOLDENVILLE — A benefit Grocery Bingo and Food Sale will be held Saturday, April 7, 2012 at the Holdenville Indian Community Center.

The Food Sale will start at 10:30 a.m., and bingo will follow at 1:30 p.m. Games will be $10 for 10 and include hard luck. There will also be a cake walk, door prizes, and 50/50 pots.

Proceeds will benefit Ashleigh Fixico, granddaughter of Paul and Georgetta Fixico.

Sexual Assault Awareness Walk set for April 11

OKMULGEE — "Walk a Mile In Her Shoes" is the theme for the 2012 Sexual Assault Awareness Walk, set for April 11, 2012.

The event will begin at 12:30 p.m., at the MCN Mound Building. It is sponsored by the MCN Family Violence Prevention Program.

For more information, contact Tina Qualls at (918) 813-6900 or email tqualls@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

Indian taco sale set for April 21

TULSA — Muscogee (Creek) attendees of the 2012 National Indian Conference on Aging will be holding an Indian Taco Sale fund raiser April 21, 2012 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The sale will be held at the Tulsa Creek Indian Community Center located at 8611 S. Union in Tulsa.

A taco, drink and dessert are $8, and a silent auction will also be held. Proceeds will be used to attend the conference.

For more information call (918) 298-2464.

CMN calls for commentary by April 21, 2012

OKMULGEE — The College of the Muscogee Nation is seeking comments from the public about the college in preparation for its periodic evaluation by its regional accrediting agency.

The CMN will host a visit May 21-23, 2012, with a team representing the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association.

The team will review the institution's ongoing ability to meet the Commission's Criteria for Accreditation.

The public may submit comments on the Commission's Web Site at www.ncahlc.org.

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs and must be must be in writing and received by April 21, 2012.

MCN Web site to be updated, seeks feedback

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Communications Department is redesigning the website to make it more functional. As part of the redesign, the department is seeking input from citizens regarding usability. Feedback will be used to create a more user-friendly site.

Would you like to submit job applications online? Check the status of your claim with the housing department? Change the name on your roll card from your maiden name or update your address? Have other suggestions or comments about the website? Let us know via email at jslane@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

Mvto!

For more information, call (918) 732-7720 or contact us by mail at:

C/O MCN Communications
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447

Children's Mental Health Awareness Day set for Wednesday May 9, 2012

SAPULPA — Mental, emotional, and behavioral issues are real. They can be very painful, and challenging. These concerns are a source of stress for children and their families, schools, and communities.

The number of children and their families who are affected by mental, emotional, and behavioral challenges is significant. It is estimated that as many as one in five children and adolescents may have a mental health challenge that can be identified and require treatment.

What are the causes of mental illness? Through research, it is becoming clear that many of these conditions are caused by biology, psychological and environment, or a combination.

Some examples of biological aspects are genetics, chemical imbalances in the body and damage to the central nervous system, such as defects to certain areas of the brain.

Psychological factors include, server trauma suffered as a child, emotional, physical, or sexual abuse. Many environmental aspects also can affect your mental health, including exposure to violence, extreme stress, and the loss of an important person.

Families and communities working together can help children, and adolescents with mental health challenges.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Behavioral Health & Substance Abuse program has a range of services to meet the necessary needs of children and their families.

To help support your local community efforts to raise awareness about children's mental health please contact Lindsley Harry, Social Marketing Coordinator at (918) 224-9307. Protecting the Future (CMHI grant) will provide presentations and brochures to promote public education concerning mental health.

Resilient Farmer Workshop set for April 28

POTEAU — The Resilient Farmer Workshop is set for Sat., April 28, 2012 at the Kerr Center. The event is from 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., at Kerr Center Stewardship Ranch.

Registration/check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. Please register by April 23, 2012, as space is limited.

At this workshop participants will learn about innovative approaches to building soil fertility and becoming more self-sufficient on the farm.

Emphasis will be on using innovative approaches to building soil fertility for sustainable market farming.

Participants will learn about cover crops, green manures, rotations, compost, compost tea, organic no-till, bermuda grass suppression using cover crops and care of the soil food web.

Chief presenter will be soil health expert Steve Diver. Diver is a former OSU Extension Horticulturist/Agriculture agent (Muskogee and McIntosh counties) with 30 years of experience working in organic and sustainable agriculture.

Cost is $35 and includes lunch. Further details are on the Kerr Center Web site at: http://kerrcenter.com/joomla/eventlist/details/137-the-resilentfarmer-workshop.

Participants may also register by contacting the Kerr Center at (918) 674-9123 or via email: mailbox@kerrcenter.com

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month
April 11, 2012
"Taking Back Our Traditions!"
Presented by: Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention
Date: April 11, 2012
Location: Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Mound Building
Registration: 12:30 p.m.
Presentation: 1:30 - 2 p.m.
(followed by walk)
⇒ Participants will receive a t-shirt, cup, & Bag
⇒ Donations accepted: Hygiene products, new flip-flops, slippers, new apparel or new undergarments. All items will be donated to Sexual Assault Nurse Examination Programs within MCN tribal jurisdiction.
4th Annual Sexual Assault Awareness Walk
SEXUAL VIOLENCE IS NOT OK!
For more information please contact Tina or Tania at (918) 732-7869.

Creek businesswoman 'powers' her way into back-up generator market

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

TULSA — It's unusual to find a woman in the electrical generator trade, much less a Native American woman, but Ginette Overall is making her way into that industry and becoming a recognizable TV spokesperson in the process.

Ginette Overall

TV viewers might recognize Overall from her TV commercials for her business, "PowerReady" and that's something she's proud of. The Creek woman built her business by starting with no background in electrical generation to a point where she is selling back-up generators to private homes, major retail consumers and even several tribal governments. The owner and president of Power Ready explains that she sells generators that supply substitute power when the electric utility power is lost due to a variety of reasons like bad weather.

Overall is an enrolled Creek citizen and her family, the Perryman and McIntosh families are from the Bristow and Tulsa areas. Overall keeps that heritage as an important part of her life, "I do. I think it's just in our DNA, part of your soul that you can feel. When you look into the eyes of a picture of one of your ancestors and you know it's there. It's how you live your life, if you're going to be connected or not."

Her business began, she said, when the electricity in her home went out and she wanted a back-up generator, but had difficulty finding one. She recognized the opportunity in the local market and began an effort to fill it.

"Once I saw there were people who had the same problem as me and they didn't know how to fix it, they knew they didn't like the lights off, but what was the alternative? We started advertising and going on TV and trying to get the word out that there is an alternative to sitting there in the dark and cold. Building on that, we went from the residential side to the commercial end of it. Now, we're moving up to the tribal side of it and that's all the casinos and everything," she said.

PowerReady sells a variety of stand-by generators, from the smaller, mobile versions used at tailgate parties to generators large enough to serve a whole building. These stand-by units turn on automatically when the electricity is lost in many cases. She became a dealer when she learned that to obtain a generator, she would have to purchase multiple units. So, she decided to sell them.

Being a Creek and a woman in a male-dominated industry has been both a benefit and drawback she recalls, "I think the woman part is harder than the native part, because when most people think about generators, power tools and electricity, they think about some big guy in a plaid shirt with a tool belt. So, it kind of catches them off guard when they see that it's a woman that's going to come in and talk about. So, I don't think that I would change either one of them."

Becoming a recognizable TV spokesperson has had some effect on her life, "It has affected my life. A lot of times they do know me. Its' been good and it's been bad."

She admitted that occasionally there have been some people that did make her a little nervous, but mostly it's been on the positive side, she laughed, "You've got those that you wish wouldn't look at the commercials, but mostly it's been nice people. They really enjoy seeing Robert, (her large male co-star) in the commercial. They know that we're local and not some slick package out of New York. These are real people who are trying to make a living right here . . .That we live with you and we know everything about Tulsa just like you do and most people are really nice about it. I sometimes get a good table in a restaurant because of it."

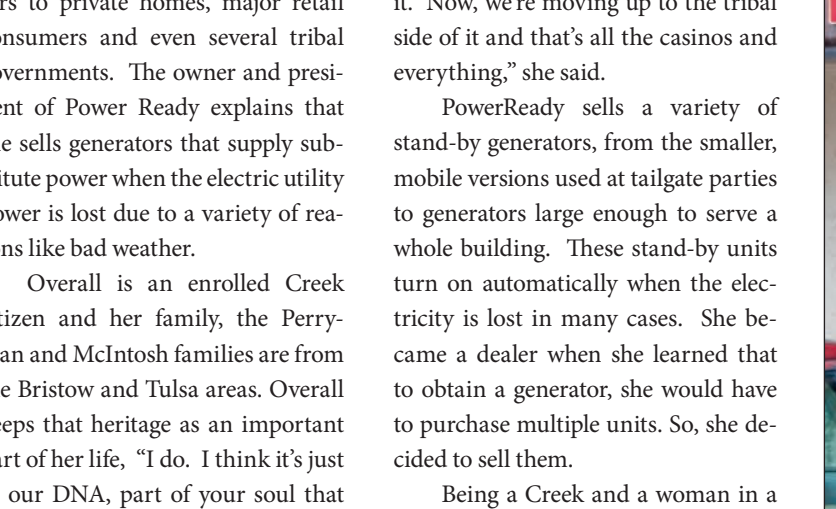
Overall shared some encouragement for young Native women who might consider starting a business career on their own, "I think if she had the desire and ability, that whatever dream she has, she should certainly get out there and go and try it. I don't think that there's any reason for someone to be hesitant or negative about it. You have to see yourself doing it and get past it. Once you see yourself doing it, then you can do it. That's exactly what 'she' needs to do, is get up and go do it."

PowerReady is always going to be the primary focus of Overall's business agenda, but she predicts there are other ideas and opportunities that have caught her attention, so she may be branching out into some other projects.

For more information on Power Ready, call (918) 712-5300.

MNN/*Gary Fife*

Pictured above is owner of PowerReady generator store, Ginette Overall standing in front of her store located at 4121 S. Sheridan in Tulsa, Okla.



RIB BASKET $6.50
Ribs, Fries, Baked Beans & Texas Toast

RIBS (FULL SLAB) $15.50

STEAK & SHRIMP $12.25
10 oz. New York Strip, 6 Jumbo Fried Shrimp Salad and Hot Roll

CHICKEN FRIED STEAK $6.25
Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable & Roll

BRISKET SANDWICH
Sliced $5.50
Chopped Beef $5.25

Council Oak CAFE

From some good ole smoked BBQ to your favorite comfort foods, we are serving it all up in a whole new way.

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Stop by or call in your order today at the Council Oak Cafe located inside the One Fire Casino.

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THIS FACILITY IS REGULATED BY THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION OFFICE OF PUBLIC GAMING

2012 MCN Primary Election set for April 12, 2012

Media Release
MCN Election Board

OKMULGEE — In order to comply with Article VI, Section 2 of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Constitution, a Special Election will be held for Seat B in both Creek and Wagoner Districts.

The Filing Period for vacant seats is set for March 26-28, 2012.

The Special Primary Election will be May 5, 2012.

The Special General Election will be July 7, 2012, if necessary.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Constitution was recently amended to state representation of the National Council to be reduced from 26 representatives to 16 representatives by the end of 2013 with staggered terms.

A General Election was held Nov. 5, 2011 to fill vacant seats of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council for the Palen-Kolvpohkaken (17th) Session. George Tiger was sworn in to office as Principal Chief Jan. 2, 2012 and vacated National Council Representative Seat B (Creek District) with approximately two years remaining.

An election was held for one seat for the Wagoner District for the next four years, and one seat remains vacant.

VOTER REGISTRATION ELIGIBILTY

• ENROLLED CITIZEN
• 18 YEARS AND OLDER

ENROLLED CITIZENS; IF YOU ARE NOT REGISTERED A VOTER OF THE TRIBE CONTACT THE ELECTION BOARD BY CALLING 918/732-7631 OR 732-7736. THE REGISTRATION CLERK WILL MAIL YOU A VOTER'S REGISTRATION FORM OR YOU CAN COME BY THE ELECTION BOARD OFFICE LOCATED AT THE MAIN COMPLEX ACROSS FROM THE RECEPTION DESK. WE WILL NEED A COPY OF YOUR TRIBAL ENROLLMENT CARD.

VOTER ADDRESS

ALL MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION REGISTERED VOTERS (PRECINCT AND ABSENTEE VOTERS), CONTACT THE ELECTION BOARD OFFICE AT 918/732-7631 OR 732-7736 TO MAKE SURE YOUR VOTER INFORMATION IS UP TO DATE. VOTER, IF YOU HAVE MOVED PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE OF THE NEW ADDRESS. IF YOU KNOW OF ANY VOTER WHO IS DECEASED, PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE SO THAT HE/SHE CAN BE REMOVED FROM OUR FILES.

ABSENTEE VOTING

THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION ELECTION BOARD ENCOURAGES REGISTERED VOTERS TO REGISTER OR CHANGE THEIR VOTING STATUS AS AN ABSENTEE VOTER IF THE CITIZEN; WORKS ON WEEKENDS, HAS CHILDREN ACTIVITES ON SATURDAYS, WILL BE OUT OF TOWN ON ELECTION DAY, ANY ELDERLY WHO IS HOME BOUND AND ALSO TO MAKE IT CONVENIENT FOR ALL REGISTERED VOTERS.

ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST FORMS WILL BE MAILED OUT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE REQUEST FORM MAY BE MAILED, E-MAILED, FAXED OR BOUGHT IN PERSON TO THE ELECTION BOARD OFFICE. THE FORM MUST CONTAIN THE SIGNATURE OF THE VOTER. THE VOTER'S SIGNATURE IS VITAL TO THE ABSENTEE VOTING PROCESS.

ELECTION DATES:

PRIMARY ELECTION: MAY 5, 2012
POLLS OPEN: 7 A.M.-7 P.M.

ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST DEADLINE: APRIL 12, 2012 5 P.M.

ABSENTEE BALLOT MAIL OUT: APRIL 16, 2012

PRECINCT REGISTRATION DEADLINE: APRIL 25, 2012

ABSENTEE/PRECINCT REGISTRATION RE-OPENS: MAY 10, 2012
GENERAL ELECTION: JULY 7, 2012
POLLS OPEN: 7 A.M.-7 P.M

ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST DEADLINE: JUNE 14, 2012 - 5 P.M.

ABSENTEE BALLOT MAIL OUT: JUNE 18, 2012

PRECINCT REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JUNE 27, 2012 - 5 P.M.

PRECINCT VOTERS

ALL PRECINCT VOTERS; ON ELECTION DAY PLEASE VOTE AT THE PRECINCT POLLING SITE WHERE YOU ARE REGISTERED. IF UNSURE, CALL THE ELECTION BOARD OFFICE BEFORE ELECTION DAY AT 918/732-7631 OR 732-7736.

ELECTION DAY, IF YOU VOTE AT A DIFFERENT POLLING SITE OTHER THEN WHERE YOU'RE REGISTERED YOUR NAME WILL NOT BE LISTED ON THAT POLL BOOK. ALL POLLING SITES ARE OPEN 7 A.M. TO 7 P.M.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In re the marriage of:)
MILLIE HILL,)
Petitioner,) **Case No. DV-2012-16**
vs.)
ALVIN HULBUTTA,)
Respondent.)

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Alvin Hulbutta

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for divorce in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. DV-2012-, styled In re the Marriage of Mille Hill, Petitioner and Alvin Hulbutta, Respondent. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to a *Decree of Dissolution of Marriage* from you based on the grounds of incompatibility.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear at the hearing on the 22nd day of May 2012 at 1:30 o'clock P.m. Failure to respond and/or attend will result in the allegations contained in the *Petition* being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in his *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 23rd day of Feb., 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District

By: Jobie King
(Deputy)

(SEAL)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In re the marriage of:)
BARBARA JEAN TONEY,)
Petitioner,) **Case No. DV-2012-04**
vs.) **Before the Honorable Gregory Bigler**
GREGORY VINCENT ROBERTS,) **Judge of the District Court**
Respondent.)

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Gregory Vincent Roberts

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for divorce in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. DV-2012-04, styled In re the Marriage of Barbara Jean Toney, Petitioner and Gregory Vincent Roberts, Respondent. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to a *Decree of Dissolution of Marriage* from you based on the grounds of incompatibility.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear at the hearing on the 12th day of April 2012 at 10 o'clock A.m. Failure to respond and/or attend will result in the allegations contained in the *Petition* being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in his *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 17th day of January, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District

By: ShaVon McClenathan
(Deputy)

(SEAL)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In re the marriage of McCLISH:)
CATHY ELIZABETH McCLISH,)
Petitioner,) **Case No. DV-2012-02**
vs.)
MICHAEL McCLISH, SR.,)
Respondent.)

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Michael McClish, Sr.

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for divorce in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. FD-2012-02, styled In re the Marriage of Cathy Elizabeth McClish, Petitioner and Michael McClish, Respondent. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to a *Decree of Dissolution of Marriage* from you based on the grounds of incompatibility.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear at the hearing on the 2nd day of May 2012 at 9:30 o'clock A.m. Failure to respond and/or attend will result in the allegations contained in the *Petition* being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in his *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 29th day of February, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmul
District

By: ShaVon McClenathan
(Deputy)

(SEAL)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT
FILED
2012 MAR 15 PM 11 19
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

In re the Paternity of KALEB CURTIS HICKS:)
KOLEPAH BERRYHILL,)
Petitioner,) **Case No. CV-2011-158**
and) **Before Gregory Bigler**
RYAN CURTIS HICKS,) **Judge of the District Court**
Respondent.)

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Ryan Curtis Hicks

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for paternity in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. CV-2011-158, styled In re the Paternity of Kaleb Curtis Hicks, Petitioner and Ryan Curtis Hicks, Respondent. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to a *Paternity Determination and Order for Child Support Custody and Visitation* from you.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear at the hearing on the 15th day of May 2012. at 1:30 o'clock P.m. Failure to respond and/or attend will result in the allegations contained in the *Petition* being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in her *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 15th day of March, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District

By: Jobie King
(Deputy)

(SEAL)

Southern Regional Offices April calendar

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Social Services 8am-5pm Employment & Training 8am-12pm Okmulgee 1pm-5pm	**3** Tax Commission 9am-3pm Lunch 11am-11:30am	**4** Citizenship 10am-3pm Legal Services (appointment only) National Council 9am-4pm	**5**	**6** **Creek Nation Complex Closed**	**7**
9 Social Services 8am-5pm Employment & Training 8am-12pm Okmulgee 1pm-5pm	**10** Tax Commission 9am-3pm Lunch 11am-11:30am	**11** National Council 9am-4pm	**12**	**13** WIC@Clinic 9am-4pm	**14**
16 Social Services 8am-5pm Employment & Training 8am-12pm Okmulgee 1pm-5pm	**17** Tax Commission 9am-3pm Lunch 11am-11:30am	**18** Legal Services 9am-3pm National Council 9am-4pm	**19**	**20**	**21**
23 Social Services 8am-5pm Employment & Training 8am-12pm Okmulgee 1pm-5pm	**24** Tax Commission 9am-3pm Lunch 11am-11:30am	**25** National Council 9am-4pm	**26**	**27** WIC@Clinic 9am-4pm	**28**
30 Social Services 8am-5pm Employment & Training 8am-12pm Okmulgee 1pm-5pm			-Employment & Training here daily 8am-5pm (405) 452-1155 -Housing here daily (405) 452-1100/1106 -Reintegration (appointment only) 1-800-259-1059 -WIC (405) 452-1300		

Emvponayv

Gary Fife
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE — Leaders of Oklahoma's major American Indian tribes were in Disneyland-On-The-Potomac recently at the winter session of the National Congress of American Indians, the nation's largest Native lobbying group. The tribal governments were consulting with the feds and got a lot of speeches from federal agency leaders.

The Okla. folks talked about bringing back the old Okla. Intertribal Council to form a unified voice on key issues. The council split up years ago as the tribes followed their own paths. In the meeting, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger and Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Bill John Baker were elected as leaders. Tiger was happy, "I really believe much more can be accomplished," he said.

Other items including an invitation to the top-dog Indian fed guy, Assistant Interior Secretary for Indian Affairs Larry Echo Hawk to meet tribal leaders in eastern Oklahoma.

Their efforts come at a time when actions on both the state and federal levels are getting more skepticism from tribes. Maybe, things such as the Governor abolishing the Indian Affairs Commission, saying there would be an Indian Liaison position instead. But she still hasn't made it happen despite a promise and a deadline (now passed). The administration said it was a problem because they couldn't find a qualified person and the blood quantum requirement was too high. (In Oklahoma?) Perhaps, what the Governor really wanted: make the tribes come up with their own committee and carry the cost themselves? Ya think? Native America, indeed!

The move drew positive comments from key members of Oklahoma's congressional delegation. Let's hope something can come of that.

Hey, have you heard that Indian casinos are rebounding from the recent economic recession? Over the last couple of years, they lost about one percent of revenues. Now, the latest reports say, they regained that one percent. I guess when you look at revenues in seven or eight figures, that's some real cash. When you look at my revenues, one percent either way doesn't pack too much of a wallop and I'm not sure I ever got past a lifelong economic recession. For any young people looking at a career as a journalist, be sure to take your vow of poverty first.

Ready for more exciting developments on the Lone Ranger movie front?

The movie is still on and due out sometime in 2013. However, critics say you can't figure out whether the flick is a bad joke or a serious effort. An advance photo of the Masked Man and his Faithful Indian Companion shows the Lone Ranger looking like a cowboy off the pages of Gentlemen's Quarterly. Worse than that, Johnny Depp as Tonto, was wearing black war paint streaked down his face looking like he had a terminal case of running mascara. On his head was some kind of dead bird with outstretched wings, reminiscent of something an English princess might wear to her cousin's wedding. Who the heck comes up with this stuff?

Once again, Hiyo Silver!

Forum

Continued from Page 1

There was discussion from both Tiger and community members regarding the possibility of revising Title 11. One of the main problems mentioned was outdated language.

"For example, right now we are still using the same language for our casinos that we were using for high stakes bingo," said Tiger.

Another problem mentioned by citizens detailed how it had been used by administrations in the past. One citizen had this to say:

"We are tired of getting letters threatening the possibility of losing funding, charters or the threat of facing prosecution from not fulfilling laws outlined in Title 11 for community funding. We feel that it shouldn't be used in a dictative manner."

The community representative continued stating that how these policies have been used discouraged their willingness to cooperation with tribe.

Tiger responded to their concerns by promising to hold more meetings with the communities to specifically address the code and gain the their feedback on how it should be amended.

Tiger also stated that he would extend the deadline for community block grant applications.

The issue of escrowed monies or use of tribal funds was raised briefly, and Tiger stated that his administration is still looking into where money has been used and where it is going currently.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tax Commissioner and Okla. State Rep. Jerry McPeak helped Tiger address the tobacco compact issue. Tiger introduced the issue before handing the floor over to McPeak by describing their meeting with state officials over the compact.

"At the end of January or early February, we probably had 30 minutes to talk about a compact. We believe we accomplished more in 20 minutes than what happened in the previous administration. The only thing that is stalemating us is a settlement agreement," said Tiger.

McPeak shared Tiger's view, and explained tribal officials have begun speaking with a new person at the state level who is more agreeable.

Tiger was hesitant to outline specifics of what the compact may entail at this point. "It is still confidential, the things we are discussing as possible agreements, but they are listening," he said.

McPeak assured the community members that the final results of the agreement would be positive however. "Once we have a compact, that itself will provide the communities with economic stimulus," he said.

Both Tiger and the community members expressed a wish to centralize communication between the communities and the tribe. Many of the representatives pointed out the inconvenience of driving to the tribal complex in Okmulgee to conduct all their business.

One solution was discussed was use of the Internet to provide the ability to conduct business with the tribe without having to leave their respective towns.

"At some point we want to do that. There's one thing we want thing we want to pursue and that is having centralized access. There are a lot of programs that have the same information. Right now we are very sensitive about putting things out on the Internet, because of the sensitivity of that information. It is going to be a little longer," said Tiger.

One representative asked Tiger about assistance for economic development geared toward youth. Tiger responded by explaining that his administration had already applied for funding through the treasury for these programs.

Another representative requested that more council members attend their community meetings. Tiger assured them that he would attend, and hoped that the council members would start going as well.

A concern was also raised over the possibility of the block grant falling short of what the communities needed. In response to this, Tiger suggested an application through special appropriations for any specific projects that needed further funding.

During the meeting, Tiger expressed his pride in the relationship the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has with its community, and his wish for continued and improved communication between the two.

"There are many tribes that are envious of the relationship we have with our communities. We want to get back to where we were with the communities, and I think you want to work with us. This is the first meeting we've had, and this won't be the last," said Tiger.

MCN Citizenship Office updating death records

Media Release
MCN Citizenship Office

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Office is asking family members of deceased citizens to contact our office in order to update the deceased citizens' information. The office is also requesting the original state certified full image death certificate of the citizen.

The original document will be returned. This is in response to the Citizenship Office's efforts to update the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's files.

For more information, please contact the office at (918) 732-7941.

McIntosh Co., seeks CASA volunteers

Media Release
McIntosh Co., CASA

EUFAULA — Today and every day in America, five children will die from abuse and neglect. Since 2010, In Oklahoma alone, 10 children have died at the hands of their own parents or caretakers. Currently, in McIntosh County, we have children who, through no fault of their own, have suffered abuse and neglect and are, living with relatives, foster parents, or in youth shelters , while the Department of Human Services and the Court system deal with their cases. These children often have no one, outside the system, to speak up for them in court and some have even fallen "through the cracks" once inside the system. If you care about what happens to these children, enough to want to do something about it, then C.A.S.A. (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Southeast Oklahoma would like to give you that opportunity. CASA's are ordinary people who care about kids. You don't have to be a lawyer or a social worker to qualify. You just have to be an adult willing to stand up for an abused and neglected child. As a CASA volunteer you receive official training from professionals in the field to get you familiar with the court and child welfare system and other important aspects of the cases including child development, interviewing techniques and cultural competency. You are then qualified to be court appointed by a judge. You'll be given the tools and personal support you need to aid your search for as much information as possible about a child in order to achieve an objective viewpoint of his/her welfare.

With about 50 per cent of the children served being boys, we have a special need for more men to stand up and be counted as "everyday heroes" and role models in the lives of these future men. One person could make all the difference in the world to a child suffering from abuse or neglect. That person could be you.

If you're interested, classes are forming now to begin in the next two months. Please call CASA of S.E. Oklahoma in Eufaula, at (918) 689-9200 or for more information go to;

Oklahomacasa.org or our national website at casaforchildren.org

CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

SAVE THE DATE

10th Annual
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
"Doing Business in Indian Country"

Continuing Legal Education Seminar
River Spirit Events Center - Tulsa, OK
Thursday and Friday – May 17th & 18th

"Celebrate the 10th annual Doing Business in Indian Country CLE! Recognized speakers will discuss the Past, Present, & Future of Tribal Courts including: Court Origin; Jurisdiction; Indian Gaming and Tort Claims; Indian Child Welfare and Tribal Child Support."
Judge Gregory H. Bigler

Attendees will receive ten (10) hours of CLE Credit (Includes 1 hour of ethics)
Cost of Attendance- $200.00
****Daily Rates Available – Contact the District Court for Additional Information***

Name: _____ **OBA Number:**_____

Firm Name: _____

Address:_____

Phone: _____**Email:** _____

Mail Completed Form and $200.00 per registrant to:
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court
2012 CLE Registration
PO Box 652
Okmulgee, OK 74447

****The Annual Muscogee (Creek) Nation Bar Association Meeting will be held at 0600 PM on Thursday, May 17th at Visions Buffet located inside River Spirit Casino. For More information regarding the MCN Bar Association contact Connie Dearman at 918-758-1439. Mvto!!***

THE GREAT SEAL OF THE CHOCTAW NATION

11th Annual

"TO BRIDGE A GAP" CONFERENCE

APRIL 2 – 5, 2012

Choctaw Casino and Resort

"To Bridge A Gap"
USDA FOREST SERVICE
TRIBAL RELATIONS PROGRAM

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma will be hosting the 11th Annual "To Bridge A Gap" Conference, in collaboration with the National Forest Service. This conference is designed to strengthen Government-to-Government relationships between federal and state agencies, and federally-recognized Tribes with interests in our forests.

Topics for this year include:

- Preconference Tribal Meeting with FCC
- Regional Executive Session with Forest Leaders and Tribal Leaders
- Introductory GPS/GIS Preconference Hands-On Workshop
- NEPA and Section 106: Procedures and Issues
- Traditional Cultural Properties and Sacred Sites
- NAGPRA: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
- Tribal and Federal Collaborative Partnerships
- FCC Consultation Meeting with Tribes
- Tribal Relations Report
- National Historic Preservation Program: Updates and Application Process

Guest Speaker: TBA

Several federal and state agencies will be present including National Forest Service from various regions, Army Corp. of Engineers, State Historic Preservation Offices, National Park Service, and National Resources Conservation Service.

The "To Bridge A Gap" Conference is a wonderful opportunity to discuss tribal relations and cultural preservation issues, and participate with others who are dedicated to improving this relationship.

For more information please contact Dr. Ian Thompson, Choctaw Nation Historic Preservation Department at (580) 924-8280 Ext. 2216, ithompson@choctawnation.com, or Johnnie Jacobs at (580) 924-8280 Ext. 2559, jjacobs@choctawnation.com.

Conference registration and hotel information can also be found on the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma website at **www.choctawnationculture.com/TBAG2012.**

The Government of The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Organizational Chart
Constitution
And
Statutes

Legislative Branch

- Speaker
- Second Speaker
- Standing Committees:
  - Business, Finance & Justice
  - Health, Education & Welfare
  - Land, Natural Resources & Cultural Preservation

Executive Branch

- Executive Office of the Principal Chief
  - Legal Counsel to the Principal Chief
  - Policy Analyst
  - Executive Secretary
- Office of Chief of Staff
  - Press Secretary – Media Affairs
  - Intergovernmental Affairs
- Office of Second Chief
  - Staff Assistant
- National Sovereignty Security Council
- Council of Economic Advisors
- The Cabinet

Judicial Branch

- Supreme Court
- Chief Justice and Justices
- District Court:
  - Criminal, Civil & Family
- District Court Judge
- Special District Judges
- Legal Services

Statutory Agencies

- Lighthorse Administration
  - Gaming Warden
- Office of Tax Commission
- Office of Public Gaming/Gaming Commissioner
  - Gaming Operations Authorities Board
    - Tulsa River Spirit Casino
    - Duck Creek Casino
    - Eufaula Casino
    - Okemah Casino
    - Checotah Casino
    - Bristow Casino
    - Okmulgee Casino
    - Holdenville Casino
- Creek Nation Foundation, Inc.
- Business Enterprise Board
- Tribal Trade & Commerce Board
- Veterans Affairs
- Economic Development Team
  - Chartered Communities

Constitutional Agencies

- Citizenship Board
- Election Board
- College of the Muscogee Nation

Department of the Administration

Office of the Executive Director

- Human Resource Management Services
  - Selection
  - Training
  - Fringe Benefits
  - Labor Relations
- General Services Administration:
  - Facilities
  - Fleet Management
  - Risk & Safety Management
    - ~ Geo Spatial
    - ~ Arbor Services
    - ~ Emergency Management Services
  - Telephone Services
  - Mail Distribution
- Communication Services
  - Newspaper
  - Web Management
  - TV/Radio
- Information Technology
- Comprehensive Planning
  - Social/Census & Population Data
  - Economic
  - Physical

Department of the Treasury

- Office of the Secretary/Controller
- Office of Management & Budgets
  - Contracts and Budgets
  - Compliance
  - Self Governance
  - Procurement and Travel
- Finance & Accounting
  - Accounting
  - Payroll
  - Accounts Payable
- Credit & Finance
- Community Finance
- Fiscal & Investment Policy Committee
- Financial Analyst
- Office Administration
  - Cash Receipts

Department of Justice

- Office of Attorney General
- Child Support Enforcement

Cabinet for the Office of Principal Chief

Department of Health

Office of the Secretary

- Hospitals:
  - Okemah
- Clinics:
  - Sapulpa
  - Eufaula
  - Koweta
  - Okmulgee
  - Okemah
- Specialized Health Programs:
  - Contract Health
  - Behavioral Health Services
  - Vocational Rehabilitation Services
  - Community Health Representatives
  - Elderly Nutrition Program
  - Women, Infant & Children Program
  - Diabetes Program
  - Tobacco Prevention Program
  - Caregiver Program
  - Optometry Services
  - Dental Services

Department of Community & Human Services

Office of the Secretary

- Social Services
  - Social Security
  - School Clothing
  - LIHEAP Assistance
  - Hardship Assistance
  - Burial Assistance
  - General Assistance
- Child Care Program
- Children & Family Services
- Community Research & Development
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Senior Services
- Southern Regional Satellite Office
- Food Distribution

Department of Education and Training

Office of the Secretary

- Johnson O'Malley
- Eufaula Dormitory
- Employment & Training Services
- Adult Education
- Higher Education
- Reintegration
- Language Revitalization
- Head Start
- Student Assessment and Career Advisement
- Creek Nation Foundation, Inc. – Student Scholarship Campaign Program
- Library Management

Department of Interior Affairs

Office of the Secretary

- 4-H Program
- Realty Services
- Transportation
  - Transportation Planning
  - Road Construction & Force Account Management
  - Transit Services
  - Tribal Driveways Program
    - ~ Residential
    - ~ Churches
    - ~ Ceremonial Grounds
    - ~ Cemeteries
- Construction Services
  - Architectural & Engineering Design Services
  - Infrastructure Development
- Capital Improvement Plan Management
- Cultural Preservation
- Agriculture Resource Management
- Land & Natural Resources Management
- Fish and Wildlife Management
- Water Resource Management
- Mineral Resource Management
  - Oil, Gas, Coal
- Forest Resource Management
- Air Quality Management
- Water, Sewer and Solid Waste Management

Department of Commerce

Office of the Secretary/Secretary of the Nation

- Tourism & Recreation
- Museum Management
- Small Business Development Center
- Chartered Business Assistance Program
- Economic Research & Development Planning
- Technology Advancement & Technology Transfer Activities
- Uniform Commercial Code Management
- Industrial Park Management
- Commercial Park Management

Department of Housing

Office of the Secretary

- Accounting
- Admissions
- Construction Services
- Contract Services
- Development
- Force Account
- Housing Management
- Purchasing & Receiving
- Housing Programs
  - Homeownership
  - Rental Properties
  - Home Rehabilitation
  - Mortgage Assistance
- Resident Services
- NAHASDA Programs :
  - Environmental
  - Grant Compliance
  - SIPs Plant

Coming and Going in Indian Country

by Joy Harjo

Estonko--This morning is a Georgia morning. I'm here for a two-week residency at a small women's college in Decatur. It is warm, as it has been in Oklahoma, and everything is blooming. Since I arrived it has been raining flower petals and pollen. The pollen count has been enormous, shattering any records in known time in this part of the world. I stood next too a truck that was streaked with yellow pollen. Because I have spent much time around Navajos and Pueblos I naturally consider that we are being blessed by such fertility. Yet, it's been rough on sinuses and lungs. Any gift comes with its responsibility, its cost.

I bring my breakfast outside to concrete bench, facing East. The Sun embraces and feeds all of us, the many plants, the fvsjates with their spring mating songs making attractive webs, the many insects and creatures, including humans who are drinking of the light of the sun. I want to join two women who have taken a break from the kitchen. I like the up-and-down sound of their voices, and the pitch of their storytelling and laughter.

I remember that this is old Mvskoke country and try to settle back in the place of knowing to get a sense of who and what was here, before Mr. George Washington Scott who founded this college. The settlers here were an adamant bunch. They were basically, collected as the State of Georgia, the first state in the union to officially outlaw indigenous people. They brutally forced Mvskoke and Cherokee out, the first forced removal before the Trail of Tears. I am staying in the Alumnae House. The bed in my room belonged to Mr. Scott whose face looks at me from a picture over the bed. Now, that fact concerns me a little. I have to cover his image. There won't be any partying in this room, though my partying days are long behind me.

What a beautiful land this is, and to leave it was the beginning of the breaking of the heart of our people. There are helpful plants everywhere I look. And I understand that the deer were plentiful. This Saturday many Mvskoke are meeting at the site of the Battle of Horseshoe Bend over in Alabama. I am planning to find a car and drive over. I've been there twice. The first time was about fifteen years ago, when I was invited to speak at Auburn University. I was taken out one day to the grounds of the massacre. My grandfather of seven generations, Monahwee (here they call him "Menawa") was one of the leaders of that uprising against an unlawful move from our homelands to Indian Territory, far to the west. I walked the grounds from East to the North and all the way around. I felt such sadness that it settled in my lungs. I got bronchitis that day and I had never had bronchitis before. I also felt how the spirit of our people was still part of the land, the plants, and the place. We carry it with us through the generations. Seven generations is not long at all, in the time scheme of the present world.

I understand why some of the people warn us not to go back. What we find here could be difficult to carry. But I believe that the spirits of our people who are still here are happy to see us, to know that when we left we carried the fire and we made it. We are still here. Mvto

And Still the Waters Run: *Keeping the flame alive*

George Windes
CMCA Historian

YORBA LINDA, Calif., — I often tell the story of families living in California who try to celebrate our Muscogee culture. This month I have chosen to share the story of my personal (immediate) family. I apologize for the familiarity. Pride is not always about ego. Sometimes it is linked to familial achievements (especially for one's descendants).

But finally an elopement came with a pretty Creek maiden. Her name was Evelyn E. Freeman. She was just 25, a great great granddaughter of Red Eagle.

The sweet union was celebrated, but for a year. In 1940 the couple welcomed into the world twin sons, but at a terrible cost. Evelyn died two days later. I have told the story previously in my column (June 2009) entitled, "In Search of a Creek Mother."

My emphasis this month is to talk about the grand and great grandchildren of my parents.

Dad didn't see any grandchildren until he was 65 years old, but then in an absolute flood tide, 12 grandchildren came in 12 years. Since he lived to be nearly 96, he was able to see them all reach adulthood.

All 12 hold Muscogee (Creek) citizenship. They have produced over 30 offspring (so far), and most of those also hold citizenship. Recently, the first great great grandchild was proclaimed. It gives credence to my column title: And Still the Waters Run.

Many of the original 12 grandchildren sought college degrees, with teaching being a major aspiration. Currently, six of the great grandkids are attending college, with two recent graduates and two additional siblings headed off this next semester. Those in college attend BYU-Utah and Hawaii, with others at California State University (Dominguez Hills campus), Arizona State and La Verne colleges.

Tribal scholarships helped with basic and advance degrees. So far, "bankruptcies" have been avoided.

So my question this month is how do we keep Creek culture alive and respected by our youth, especially if you live 1,000 (or 10,000) miles from Okmulgee?

I believe it is through Native recognition and service. In our clan, we are big on family history. I recently retired and was quickly accredited as a Native storyteller (I love the challenge). My twin brother and his wife are volunteer docents at Lobo Lodge Indian Museum in San Clemente, Calif.

Our tribal semi-monthly paper, the *Muscogee Nation News*, comes to nearly all our homes and/or is shared. On those special occasions when Okmulgee leadership visits, we try to make sure the youth listen to the messages. The best answer to my question though must be through service. It is the true genius for building love of one's ethnicity. It is the effort remembered the longest and it builds friendships. So volunteer!

My twin and I know that the loss of our Nation is a mere generation away if one completely breaks ties to Okmulgee. Political and religious life is important to the tribe. Language is also very important, but very difficult to keep from a distance.

It is not easy in urban society, to keep the tribal fires alive. I recommend family councils (goals driven) and Muscogee (Creek) food… especially the food!

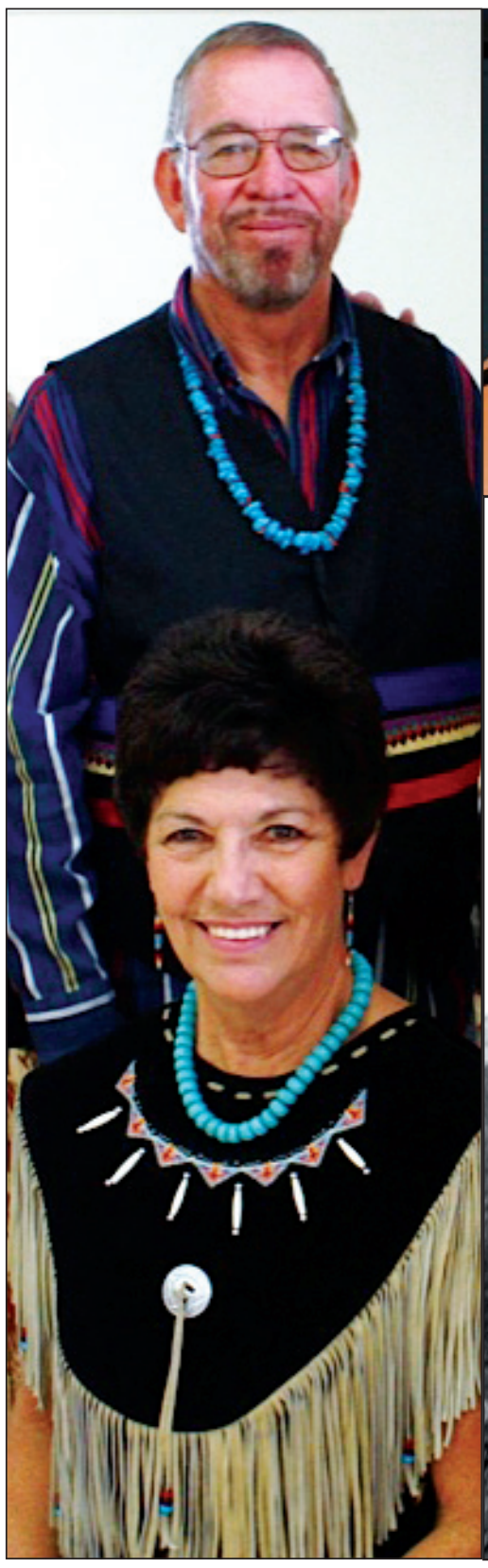
I read with great interest, the inaugural address of our new Principal Chief, George Tiger. I liked it when he mentioned the youth "which will one day hold the leadership reins of our tribe."

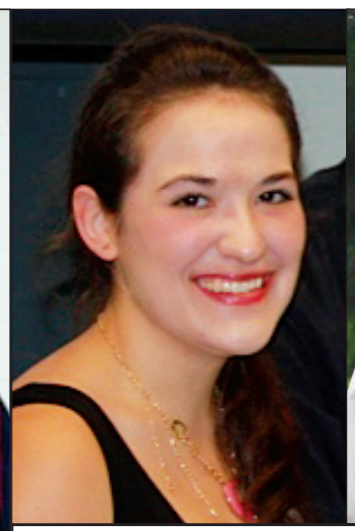
Toward the end of his address, he states: "There is a Mvskoke saying that goes, 'Keep on going, regardless, keep on going.' That has served as a rallying cry for the Mvskoke people for hundreds of years. Today as we look to the future, let us remember this rallying cry." I think this is good advice.

I am keeping this column a little short, as I hope to share a hodgepodge of photos of Mvskoke citizens who gladden my heart. They are MY children and grandchildren, and also MY nephews and nieces.

Mvto for looking…

Windes has been an active member of the California Muscogee Creek Association for over a decade and is serving on the Board as historian. He may be reached at: georgewindes@gmail.com





ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRADLEY - COPELAND

MUSKOGEE — Yuliya Copeland and Matthew Lynn Bradley were united in marriage Feb. 4, 2012 at the Muskogee Country Club.

Vows were exchanged in an evening ceremony, with Dr. Lance Sawyer officiating. The bride is the daughter of Maryna Piatak of Broken Arrow and the late Igor Piatak.

The bridegroom is the son of Sam and Peggy Bradley of Muskogee and the late Ray and Esta DePriest of Muskogee.

Serving the bride as maid of honor was Toni Bradley Smith, sister of the groom.

Serving the groom as best man was Jeff Bradley, brother of the groom. Bridesmaids were Jelisa Richey and Elena Munoz. Groomsmen were Brad Smith and Adam Wibel. Flower girl was Karina Munoz ring bearer was Austin Copeland, son of the bride. Suzanne Flemming was the pianist.

The couple will honeymoon in Riviera Maya, Mexico. They have made their home in Broken Arrow.

BRUNER ANNIVERSARY

WETUMKA — Jake and Elizabeth Bruner will celebrate thier 57th wedding anniversary April 1, 2012.

They attend Middle Creek Indian Church outside of Dustin by Lamar.

Jake is a deacon of the church

Elizabeth is a Women's leader of the church.

CHASTAIN - GREEN

COFFEYVILLE, Kansas — Announcing the wedding of Cimeron Chastain and Paul Green on April 14, 2012, at the Amazing Grace Ministry in Coffeyville beginning at 6 p.m.

Reception will follow at the VFW.

Parents of the bride are the late John and Diane Chastain of Weleetka, Okla., and Wetumka, Okla., respectively.

Parents of the Groom are Lorraine and Ron Green of Coffeyville, Kansas.

All friends and family are welcome. The couple is registered at Coffeyville Wal-Mart if you would like to send gifts.

Chastain is of Tuskegee Tribal Town and clan is Katcv (Tiger).

NIX-SPOTTEDBIRD

JENKS — The Nix family would like to announce the upcoming wedding of Jamie Spottedbird and Mathew Nix. The wedding will take place April 13, 2012 at 7 p.m., in Jenks.

Jamie is the granddaughter of the late Wilson and Mahayla Chalakee of Okmulgee. Mathew is the grandson of Robert and Jane Miller of Beggs and the son of Lea Ann Nix of Morris.

Jamie and Matt grew up in Morris, and currently reside in Glenpool.

BIRTHDAYS

ADDISON DEO

OKMULGEE — Addison Gail Deo turned six years old March 9, 2012.

Addison is the daughter of Phillip and Tina Deo of Okmulgee. She is the sibling of Ian Deo.

Grandparents are Bill Deo Jr., Sandy Long, Elmer and Brenda Jack, the late Rev. Roley and Sarah Haynes, and the late Mitchell and Louma Jack.

Family and friends attended her party at the Sweet Shoppe in Morris, Okla. The theme of the party was 'Monster High.'

Addison is a member of the Skunk Clan and attends Okmulgee Primary School.

JAYLEIGH HARJO

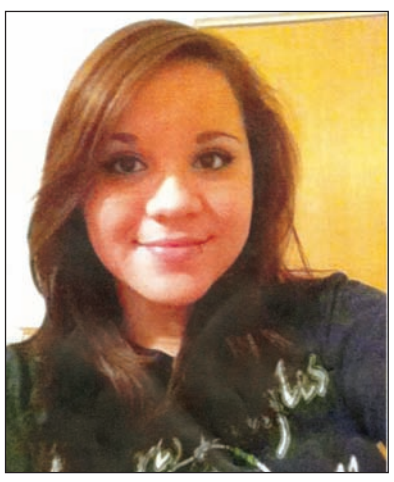
SAPULPA — Jaleigh Fus-Holvtoce Harjo celebrated her first birthday on March. 7, 2012 at the Sapulpa Indian Community Center with family and friends.

The theme of the party was "Princess."

Jayleigh is the daughter of Jamie Rolland and Vinnie Harjo. Her grandparents are Joanna Lowe, James Rolland, Woody Harjo, and Corrine Bruner Harjo. Her great grandparents are the late Andrew Lowe and Mary Louise Bible Lowe, and B.J. Jackson.

Jaleigh is a member of the Bird Clan, and is from Kellyville Euchee Ceremonial Ground.

JASMYNE JACK



DUSTIN — Jasmyne Denise Jack turned 16 years old on March 19, 2012.

Her parents are the late Elmer and Brenda Jack.

Her siblings are Robby, Tumble, Jennifer, Randy, Tina, Stacy, Paige and Gully.

Her grandparents are the late Mitchell and the late Louma Jack.

Jasmyne is a sophomore at Morris High School.

She had a gathering with 50 of her closest family and friends at her grandmother's house in Dustin, Okla.

She is a member of the Skunk Clan.

ANTHONY NEWMAN JR.

OREGON CITY, Ore. — Anthony Newman Jr., turned 16 years old March 9, 2012.

His parents are Anthony and Teri Newman.

Siblings are Raylee and Daelyn, and his grandparents are Tony and Rebecca Marks Newman.

He attends Central Catholic High School.

Anthony is looking forward to football season at Central Catholic High School where his father is the coach. He currently lives in Oregon City, Ore.

BAYLEE NEWMAN

OREGON CITY, Ore., — Baylee Newman turned 18 years old Jan. 25, 2012.

Her parents are Anthony and Teri Newman. Siblings are Anthony Jr., and Daelyn, and her grandparents are Tony and Rebecca Marks Newman.

She lives in Oregon City, Ore., and attends Central Catholic High School.

Baylee is looking forward to entering college this year.

Her basketball team "Ram" is going for their first state title this year.

DAELYN NEWMAN

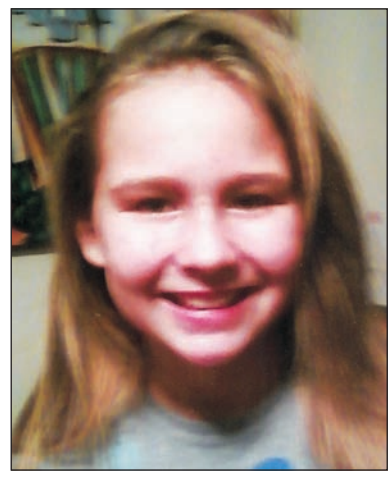
OREGON CITY, Ore. — Daelyn Newman turned 13 years old on March 10, 2012.

Her parents are Anthony and TerI Newman.

Her siblings are Anthony and Baylee, and her grandparents are Toni and Rebecca Marks Newman.

Daelyn lives in Oregon City, Ore., and attends St. John the Apostle School.

NATALIE PRIMEAUX



OKMULGEE — Natalie Primeaux turned 12 years old on Mar. 17, 2012.

Natalie is the daughter of Bertha Primeaux, and Eric Leach of Okmulgee.

Her siblings are Stephanie and Clinton Primeaux.

Her grandmothers are Jamima Primeaux, and Susie Corley.

She attends Okmulgee Eastside Elementary, and is a member of the Skunk Clan.

The Muscogee Nation News will no longer print announcements as of April 1, 2012

Rebecca Landsberry
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee Nation News will no longer be accepting or publishing announcements as of April 1, 2012.

Due to the need for increased space for news and other editorial content, announcements will no longer be accepted by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Communications Department for inclusion in print media.

Citizens may still submit this information via email for possible inclusion on the Muscogee Nation News Facebook page to SCosper@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

For more information, contact MCN Communications at (918) 732-7720.

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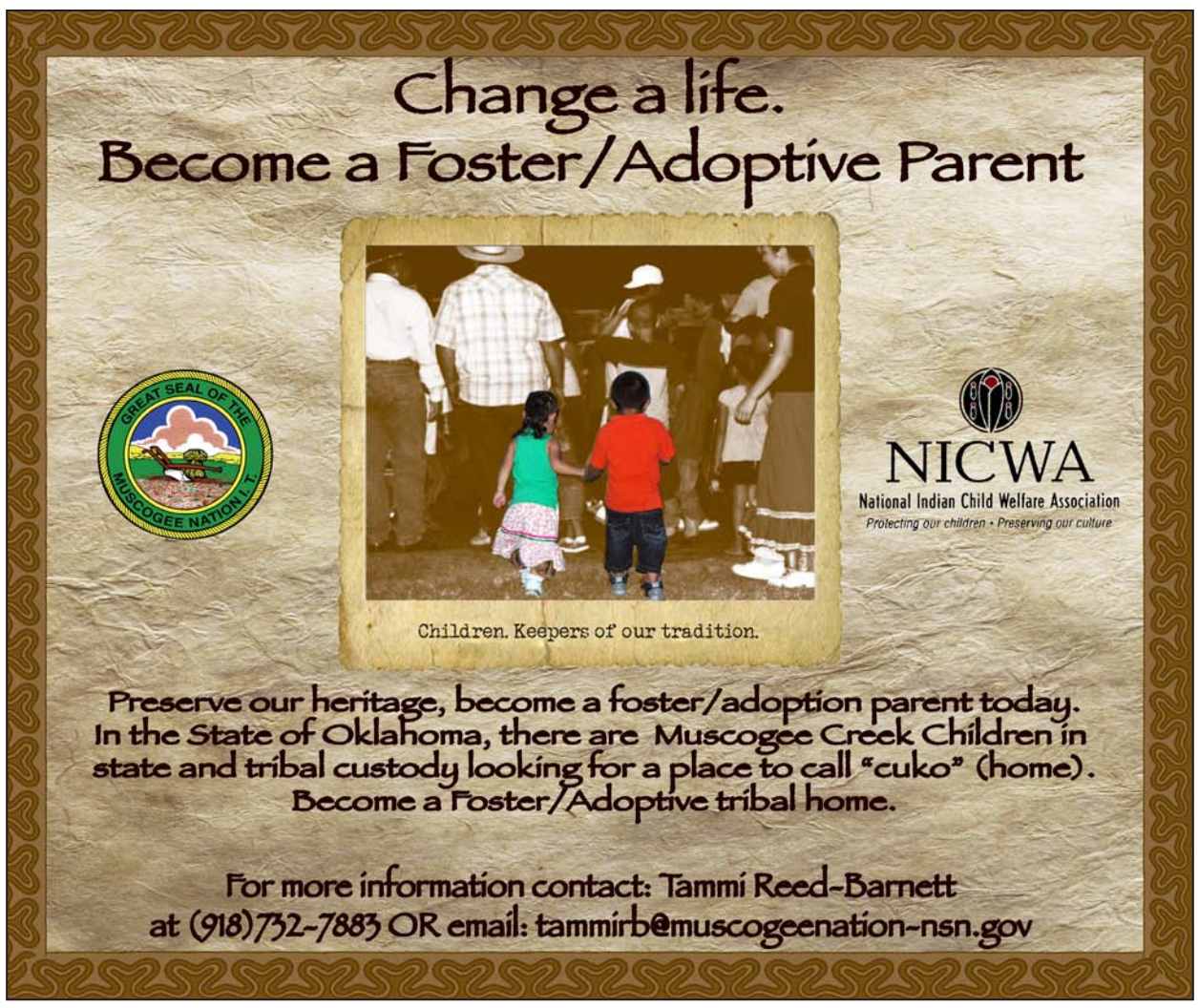
Funding for this event was provided by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. Grant Number 90-FM-0023. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.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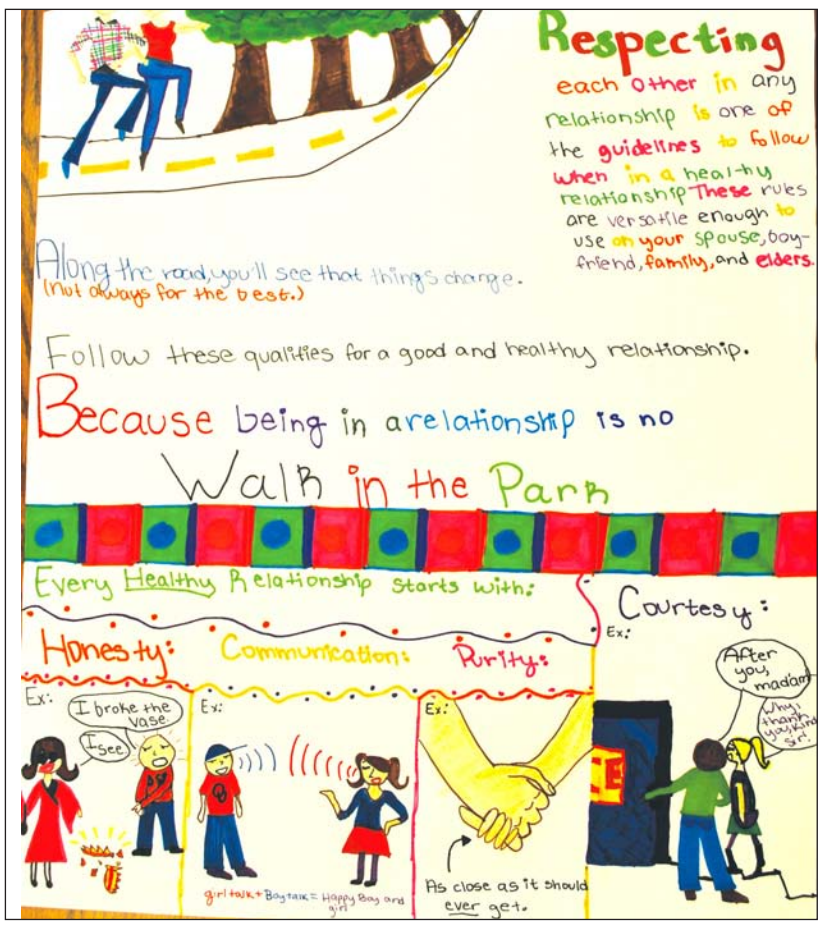
In the State of Oklahoma, there are Muscogee Creek Children in state and tribal custody looking for a place to call "cuko" (home).
Become a Foster/Adoptive tribal home.
For more information contact: Tammi Reed-Barnett
at (918)732-7883 OR email: tammirb@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

Wilson wins first place in Family Violence Prevention Program poster contest


Respecting
each other in any relationship is one of the guidelines to follow when in a healthy relationship. These rules are versatile enough to use on your spouse, boyfriend, family, and elders.
Along the road, you'll see that things change. (Not always for the best.)
Follow these qualities for a good and healthy relationship.
Because being in a relationship is no Walk in the Park
Every Healthy Relationship Starts with:
Honesty:
Communication:
Purity:
Courtesy:
Ex:
I broke the vase.
I see
After you, madam
girl talk + Boy talk = Happy Boy and girl
As close as it should ever get.

MNN/Sterling Cosper

Tyra Wilson secured the first place poster in the MCN Family Violence Prevention poster contest depicting respect in teen dating situations.

Media Release
MCN Family Violence Prevention

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program would like to congratulate all of the youth who participated in the Teen Dating Violence Prevention Poster Contest.

The winning posters were as follows: first place Tyra Wilson, second place Madeline Lamb, third place Christine Jones.

The Family Violence Prevention Program would like to thank MCN Business Enterprise and MCN Trade & Commerce for their donations and support to make our first poster contest a success.

The program would also like to thank Second Chief Roger Barnett, Thomasine Fife and Rebecca Landsberry for serving as judges.

Mvto!

MCN Emergency Response Team trains for Wilderness Search and Rescue

Media Release
MCN Emergency Management

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Emergency Response Team (MCN ERT) began training on Wednesday, March 14, 2012 to become certified in Wilderness Search and Rescue.

The 25 members of the MCN ERT respond to areas within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation during disasters and emergencies. Many of the team members have already been certified in CPR, first aid, ropes rescue, swiftwater rescue and CERT.

"This Wilderness Search and Rescue will become another tool in our 'tool box' so that we can help not only Creek citizens but the citizens within our jurisdiction and the state of Oklahoma," stated James Nichols, MCN Emergency Manager.

The MCN ERT will complete over 40 hours of training and then be evaluated by the National Association of Search and Rescue (NASAR) before becoming certified. The training involves class room and hands on skills such as map reading, survival, grid searches and patient packaging.

MCN ERT/Courtesy

The MCN Emergency Response Team has been training to receive their Wilderness Search and Rescue certifications.

"Our team is dedicated to providing a well-rounded Emergency Response Team to the citizens. We want to be available to help our neighbors and their family members in times of emergencies and disasters," Nichols stated. The MCN ERT is comprised of Muscogee (Creek) Nation employees that have volunteered their time to participate on the team.

"Visions of our Ancestors" calendars still available

Media Release
MCN Public Relations

OKMULGEE — A 2012 tribal calendar featuring images of historic leader Opoethleyahola, ceremonial dancers, a traditional Christian church and the College of the Muscogee Nation is now available for free distribution to Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizens.

The "Visions of Our Ancestors" 2012 calendar includes National Council Planning Sessions, monthly meeting dates, tribal events (such as the Muscogee Nation Festival and Council Oak Ceremony) and the birthdates of the Chief and Second Chief.

The wall calendar measures 13" x 19" and is suitable for home or office use. A larger 24" x 36" calendar is also available for use by community centers and churches. These calendars are available free of charge at the MCN Public Relations office at the tribal complex (no mail deliveries please). Distribution of the large calendars is limited to one per community or church.

For more information, contact MCN Public Relations at (918) 732-7617.

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Creek veterans honored in Arizona

Gerald Wofford
MCN Communications Manager

SACATON, Ariz. — Feb. 23, 2012 marked the 67th anniversary of the historic American flag-raising by the U.S. Marines on Mt. Suribachi in Iwo Jima. The Native American connection to this monumental World War II event is the inclusion of Pima tribal citizen and Marine, Ira Hayes, in the famous photograph taken by Joe Rosenthal.

Every year, the Gila River Indian Community commemorates Hayes by holding a special parade, speeches and flag-raising ceremonies throughout the weekend. This year's festivities included a parade winding through Gila River, featured Grand Marshall Phillip Coon waving to the miles-long crowd.

Michael Coon, Phillip's son, escorted him to Sacaton, Ariz., to not only be a part of the anniversary but to meet and visit with Kenneth Hayes, younger brother of the late Ira Hayes.

"It was a special trip for Dad and I," said Michael, "Dad and I have been out here before but never in this capacity, they [the Gila River Indian Community] had asked Dad sometime a while back to be the Grand Marshall."

Coon, a World War II veteran and a 'Bataan Death March' survivor talked with Hayes who is a veteran of the Korean War. Hayes was joined by his daughter, Sharon who talked about the movie 'The Outsider,' a 1961 Hollywood production that featured Tony Curtis as the reluctant Pima war hero.

"Yes, all the outside scenes that show Tony Curtis walking around the reservation weren't shot in a studio, they were all shot here, right where we all live," said Sharon. She said family remembers recall Curtis as polite and friendly.

The evening before the parade and the meeting with Hayes, Coon attended a banquet that honored many Native American veterans from around the country, including the popular Navajo 'Code-Talkers,' members of the Blackfeet Warriors Society and the Yakima Nation from Washington.

MNN/Gerald Wofford
Michael and Phillip Coon were invited to the Gila River Indian Community in February as part of the commemorative events surrounding the anniversary of the historic flag-raising in Iwo Jima. This picture was taken of the two on a recent trip to Washington, D.C.

For Phillip and Michael, this marked another special occasion in which the 92 year old Creek war veteran was not only honored for his exploits and experiences during World War II, but was also surprised.

"Before the dinner, I was visiting with the leaders of the Pima Nation and Chairman Emmanuel Hernandez of 'Ira Hayes Post 84' who coordinated all the events for the weekend," said Michael.

"When we began to talk about Dad and what he had to endure as a prisoner of war, Mr. Hernandez introduced a gentleman to us that had actually been a member of the unit that had been the liberators of Dad and all the other prisoners that had been held for so long in the Pacific," Conn remembered.

The meeting was emotional as both war veterans recalled walking up and down the hill where the prison camp was built. Michael, who is also a veteran of the U.S. Army like his father, also recalled lifting another veteran's spirits during the ceremonies after the parade. Michael simply offered him a special red, white and blue beaded cap with eagle feather that he was wearing. "Sometimes even with all the special ceremonies honoring all the Indian veterans going on, there may be someone who may be down even though his exploits should be acknowledged," Conn said.

Michael was approached by a particular Native veteran who had served in the U.S. Air Force. "He was admiring my hat and we began to talk, he felt that his service was not as great as many other veterans around him which wasn't true. He told me he liked the hat, which had the words 'Airborne Veteran.' I told him 'here, put it on.' Then he asked me where I could buy one. I said 'No! This is yours to keep.' He was so grateful and said that our warrior spirits would always be united."

Glenpool Community to vote on constitutional changes April 11

Media Release
MCN Community Development

GLENPOOL — Voters of the Glenpool Creek Indian Community will vote on changes to the community's constitution and by-laws April 10, 2012.

For more information, call Diana Billie at (918) 732-7963.

Cancer Care Community Education offered in Eufaula through May

Media Release
MCN Division of Health

EUFAULA — The Native Navigators will host cancer continuum sessions at the Eufaula Indian Community Center (Skate Zone) beginning April 9, 2012 with a family fun event.

The 12 educational workshops will continue through May 31. Sessions will be held every Monday and Thursday for six weeks.

NNACC has completed two workshop sessions, Okmulgee and Holdenville areas, with a great response.

Okmulgee had a total of 203 participants with an average attendance of 60 per session.

Holdenville had a total of 68 participants with an average of 40 per session.

The navigators are Loretta Denny (918) 441-6049 and Patricia Coachman (918) 441-6048, office (918) 758-2710. Debra Isham is the project manager.

Everyone 18 years or older will receive a $10 gift card after each session for participation.

Location: Eufaula Indian Community Center (Skating Ring) 800 Birks Rd., Eufaula

Dates: April 9 – June 4, 2012
Time: 6 – 8 p.m.
Family Fun Event:
Monday, April 9
Overview:
Thursday, April 12 - Cancer 100
Prevention:
Monday, April 16 – Energy Balance
Thursday, April 19 – Healthy Eating
Monday, April 30 – Exposure to Environmental Contaminants
Early Detection:
Thursday, May 3– Get on the Path to Breast Health
Monday, May 7 – Get on the Path to Colon Health
Thursday, May 10 – Get on the Path to Lung Health
Monday, May 14 – Get on the Path to Cervix Health
Thursday, May 17 - Get on the Path to Prostate Health
Survivorship:
Monday, May 21 – Side Effects
Thursday, May 31– Survivors' Support Circles
Comfort/Palliative Care
Monday, June 4 – Wills & Advance Directive

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Muscogee Nation News

April 15, 2012
Vol. 42, Issue 8

Official semi-monthly publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

National Council fails to override Kialegee veto

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE — A regular session of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council was held Saturday March 31, 2012. Topping the agenda was an item to override Principal Chief George Tiger's veto of Tribal Resolution 12-020, which was passed by the council March 8, 2012.

The override failed by a vote of 10 in favor to 5 opposed.

This resolution objected to the Kialegee Tribal Town's claim of jurisdiction on the Muscogee (Creek) allotment owned by Marcella Giles and her sister, Wynema Capps, and their attempt to place a casino on this property.

A 2/3 majority is required for an override to be successful. The full council, including the speaker, who does not vote in any other instance except a tie, votes during an override. Absent representatives as well as the speaker are considered in this majority. Therefore, 12 of the 17 council members were required to vote in favor of the resolution for it to pass.

Before the veto, TR 12-020 was passed by a vote of 9 in favor, 4 against and 1 abstention.

Rep. Nichols was the first of several representatives who explained their position on the bill before the vote.

"We have to look at the whole population of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to protect their rights, their programs and be able to fund other programs like we have on the agenda today. If we stand to lose $20 or $30 million they [Kialegee Tribal Town] are really going to impact our programs. Educational, health everything involved, for the elders, for the youth. We spoke of building new things for the elders and increasing educational funds for the youth," said Nichols.

Rep. Wind gave her statement after Nichols.

"I feel like we stepped into a statement that was not needed at this point and for those reasons outlined by the chief, I certainly support the veto," said Wind.

According to the objection given with his veto, Tiger's office was not notified before the emergency session March 8, 2012. Tiger also noted that he was not given an agenda for the session where TR 12-020 was passed. He explained how this action failed to honor his prior understanding with the committee, and how the additional time requested would have been useful.

"The adoption of TR 12-020 violated the Business, Finance and Justice Committee's agreement to give me an additional 30 days to respond to a tribal resolution on the Kialegee matter.

SEE KIALEGEE - 2

MNN/Sterling Cosper
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger addresses the MCN National Council regarding the Kialegee Tribal Town's proposed Red Clay Casino to be located in Broken Arrow, Okla.

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Creek police cars don't die, they get donated

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — When a Lighthorse police vehicle reaches a point that it gets replaced, what happens to it? Those that are still serviceable are given to another local police department.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Police donates surplus vehicles to small town departments that use the cars. For those departments, a late model used Lighthorse car may be the newest vehicle in their fleets, with the lowest mileage. They also may increase those fleets by 25 to 30 percent.

Lighthorse Police Chief Richard Fixico said the donations still help Creeks, "When we surplus these to the smaller agencies, it still assists our citizens, because these smaller towns have a larger (Creek) citizen base within their cities, so we feel like when we donate these vehicles to local agencies, they are still serving our citizens."

SEE LIGHTHORSE - 6

MCN represented at 198th anniversary of the Battle of Horseshoe Bend

Media Release
MCN Museum and Cultural Center

HORSESHOE BEND, Ala. – On March 24, 2012, a delegation from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation participated in the 198th anniversary of the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. This annual event commemorates the importance of the battle in the shared history between the United States and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Activities at the event provided a better understanding of the battle participants and the reasons why it took place through a variety of special interpretive programs.

Muscogee representation included Senior Services Manager David Dunson and 41 elders who chartered Red Hicks to captain the Muscogee (Creek) Nation tour bus for the trip. Further representation extended from MCN Chief of Staff Edwin Marshall, National Council Second Speaker Cherrah Ridge and departmental representatives from the Muscogee Nation Museum & Cultural Center, Tourism & Recreation, Cultural Preservation as well as other individual Muscogee citizens.

The Battle of Horseshoe Bend was a pivotal battle in Muscogee history. The battle pitted Upper Creeks, or "Red Sticks," against the United States and Gen. Andrew Jackson who sought to clear the Alabama territory of its Muscogee inhabitants for American settlement.

SEE BEND - 5

MCN/Justin Giles
The Muscogee (Creek) Nation sent a delegation to Horseshoe Bend National Military Park, Ala., for the 198th anniversary and re-enactment of the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. The delegation sang Creek hymns for those in attendance.

Hundreds awaiting foster and adoptive care in the MCN

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Foster Care and Adoption Program is looking for qualified tribal citizens to provide care for Native children who have been removed from their homes and placed under state or tribal supervision.

Foster and adoption recruiter Tammi Reed-Barnett explained how much this need has grown within a year.

"Since I've been here in September, we've gone from around 15 available adoptions to about 40."

Not included in those numbers are Muscogee (Creek) children who are only eligible for foster care, and those who are in state custody.

"In tribal custody, we have 73 children, in state custody we have, I think, about 288 Creek children," said Barnett.

According to Barnett, foster and adoption care go hand-in-hand.

"The child must be fostered for six months before they can be adopted. Just to make sure it is a good fit for the child and the parents. After the six months that the child has lived in the home and the termination hearing has went through, the foster family is the first available who can pick," she said.

SEE ADOPT - 4

MNN 2 - LEGAL
Letter from the Editor

MNN 3 - CALENDAR
MCN Food Distribution Program Open House set for April 30

MNN 4 - PROGRAMS
MCN Adoption and Foster Care Program

MNN 5 - TOURISM
Longacre brings excitement to fitness community

MNN 6 - CAPITOL NEWS
Lighthorse Police donates surplus vehicles

Muscogee Nation News
STAFF

Manager - Christina Good Voice
Editor - Rebecca Landsberry
Editorial Assistant - Gary Fife
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Sports Reporter - Darren DeLaune
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Please contact our office for deadline of submissions to be considered for inclusion. ***The Muscogee Nation News*** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate ***The Muscogee Nation News*** in any regard.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed from Stigler, Okla., to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

To submit a change of address or a letter to the editor, call (918) 732-7720 or send e-mail to: wmurphy@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

Letter from MNN Editor:

OKMULGEE — I hope everyone got to eat lots of holiday favorites this past weekend. As for me, I like my eggs devilish and my onions wild.

I'm sure I'm not the only one who is sad to see the wild onion season slowly fading. I'm taking solace in the fact that the 2012 Muscogee (Creek)Festival season is right around the corner.

Have you heard that Gladys Knight and the Temptations will be performing on Saturday night? It should be a great show.

And don't think MCN Tourism and Recreation forgot about country night. They have a fantastic headliner for Friday night that you definitely won't want to miss out on. Let's just say it will make you a "Crazy Girl" if you love country music.

Mvto to those of you have followed us on Twitter and "liked" us on Facebook already. It's great to hear from citizens and share their events and happenings with other tribal members. "Like" us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/MuscogeeNation-News and Follow us on Twitter at https://twitter.com/#!/The_MNN

Oh, and don't forget to send us those graduation announcements by May 25.

If you have news, events or story ideas, please contact the Communications Department at (918) 732-7720 or email me at RLandsberry@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

Kialegee

Continued from Page 1

On March 8, 2012 my flight was delayed and I was unable to attend the emergency session where I would have advised the National Council of my meetings in Washington D.C., on the subject matter of this resolution," Tiger's objection stated.

Tiger explained what he believed to be a premature response to the issue.

"Also, I had been in constant discussion with our tribal towns on ways to solve these issues that will work to the benefit of our people. We should be very deliberate and thoughtful in voicing opinions on these sensitive issues," Tiger's objection stated.

Kialegee Tribal Town King (Mekko) Tiger Hobia spoke briefly at the council session.

"We are getting to the point where we can sit down and say, 'This is what the whole Creek Nation and the tribal towns deserve,' " he said.

Tiger followed Hobia and gave a statement at the session before the vote.

"If you really want to know the truth, I as a Principal Chief, you as a council, we are the new kids on the block. Our tribal towns are much older, [and more] experienced than your form of government," he said.

He also referred to a quote by tribal elders.

"I remember our elders saying, 'There is going to be a day in our lifetimes, because of money, we'll be fighting against each other.' That was their message and I see this. My objection was not to cause any division," said Tiger.

Tiger expanded on this statement.

"We heard from Rep. Nichols on amount of monies that we could possibly lose at River Spirit. My objection isn't about that, my objection is; we gave our word as a government to allow the opportunity for us to work together. As Muscogee (Creek) people, we are unique. Nowhere in this country is there another nation that has four nations within a nation," he said.

He shared one final thought in his statement during the council session.

"All the amounts of monies that have been talked about, millions of dollars, I know one thing, as Muscogee (Creek) people, our word is priceless," Tiger said.

Representatives in favor of the legislation were: David Nichols, Darrell Proctor, Sam Alexander, Pete Beaver, Franklin Coachman, David Hill, Robert Hufft, Keeper Johnson, Eddie Lagrone and Kara Medina.

Representatives opposed were: Pearl Thomas, Lena Wind, Thomas Yahola, Shirlene Ade and Johnnie L. Greene.

Reps. Cherrah Ridge and Adam Jones III were absent.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT FILED
2012 MAR 15 PM 12 16
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Person and Estate of K. M. H., Minor Child. Case No. GD-2012-67

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

To: Unknown Father

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for guardianship of the Minor Child in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, GD-2012-__, styled In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Person and Estate of: K.M.H., minor child. The action alleges that the petitioners are entitled to a Final Decree of Guardianship over the minor child based on abandonment.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the Petitioner or appear on the 2nd day of May, 2012, a.m. at 10 o'clock a m. or the allegations contained in the *Petition* will be taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in her *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 15th day of March, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District
By: Jobie King (Deputy)

Approved:

Gregory N. Hope, MCN#641
Shannon L. Prescott, MCN#165
Courtney L. Eagan-Smith, MCN#543
Kurt K. Townsend, MCN#642
MCN Citizen Legal Services
114 N. Grand Ave, North Lobby
Okmulgee, OK 74447
(918) 756-1112 Telephone
(918) 756-1113 Facsimile
Attorneys for Petitioner

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT FILED
2012 MAR 30 PM 1 57
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

IN THE MATTER OF:
T.T., DOB: 08/25/2006
N.T., DOB: 06-16-01
A.T., DOB: 03-28-03
Alleged Deprived Children.

NOTICE OF HEARING TO:

Wesley Taylor, Natural Father

YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that a Petition to Terminate Parental Rights has been filed against you in the above-styled and numbered cause and will be heard in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the 19th day of June 2012 at 9:30 a.m..

YOU ARE HEREBY INFORMED that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the children remain wards of the Court and custody be continued in the Children and Family Services Administration for continued foster placement of possible pre-adoptive placement. **YOU ARE FUTHER INFORMED** that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.

IF YOU FAIL TO ATTEND THIS HEARING, YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS MAY BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED AND YOU MAY BE CITED FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT AND A BENCH WARRANT MAY BE ISSUED FOR YOUR ARREST.

JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In re the marriage of: MILLIE HILL, Petitioner, vs. ALVIN HULBUTTA, Respondent. Case No. DV-2012-16

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Alvin Hulbutta

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for divorce in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. DV-2012-, styled In re the Marriage of Mille Hill, Petitioner and Alvin Hulbutta, Respondent. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to a *Decree of Dissolution of Marriage* from you based on the grounds of incompatibility.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear at the hearing on the 22nd day of May 2012 at 1:30 o'clock p.m. Failure to respond and/or attend will result in the allegations contained in the *Petition* being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in his *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 23rd day of Feb., 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District
By: Jobie King (Deputy)

(SEAL)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF:
DIANE COOPER, Petitioner
vs.
JOHN COOPER, Respondent.
Case No. DV-2010-120

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: **John Cooper**

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for divorce in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. DV-2010-120, styled In re the Marriage of Diane Cooper, Petitioner and John Cooper, Respondent, *Application for Civil Indirect Contempt*. The action alleges that the Petitioner is entitled to a judgment from you based on the grounds of indirect contempt for the total amount of $75,000.00.

You are notified that you must appear at the hearing on the 24th day of May, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. Failure to attend will result in the allegations contained in the *Application* being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in her *Application*.

Given under my hand and seal this 21st day of March, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
By: Sharon McClenathan (Deputy)

(SEAL)

Approved:
Kurt K. Townsend, MCN#642
Shannon L. Prescott, MCN#165
Courtney L. Eagan-Smith, MCN#543
Gregory N. Hope, MCN#641
MCN Citizen Legal Services
114 N. Grand Ave, North Lobby
Okmulgee, OK 74447

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In re the marriage of McCLISH: CATHY ELIZABETH McCLISH, Petitioner, vs. MICHAEL McCLISH, SR., Respondent. Case No. DV-2012-02

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Michael McClish, Sr.

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for divorce in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. FD-2012-02, styled In re the Marriage of Cathy Elizabeth McClish, Petitioner and Michael McClish, Respondent. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to a *Decree of Dissolution of Marriage* from you based on the grounds of incompatibility.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear at the hearing on the 2nd day of May 2012 at 9:30 o'clock A.m. Failure to respond and/or attend will result in the allegations contained in the *Petition* being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in his *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 29th day of February, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District
By: Sharon McClenathan (Deputy)

(SEAL)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT FILED
2012 MAR 15 PM 11 19
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

In re the Paternity of KALEB CURTIS HICKS:
KOLEPAH BERRYHILL, Petitioner,
and
RYAN CURTIS HICKS, Respondent.
Case No. CV-2011-158
Before Gregory Bigler
Judge of the District Court

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Ryan Curtis Hicks

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for paternity in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. CV-2011-158, styled In re the Paternity of Kaleb Curtis Hicks, Petitioner and Ryan Curtis Hicks, Respondent. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to a *Paternity Determination and Order for Child Support Custody and Visitation* from you.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear at the hearing on the 15th day of May 2012. at 1:30 o'clock P.m. Failure to respond and/or attend will result in the allegations contained in the *Petition* being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in her *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 15th day of March, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District
By: Jobie King (Deputy)

(SEAL)

CREEK NATION COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Indian taco sale set for April 21

TULSA — Muscogee (Creek) attendees of the 2012 National Indian Conference on Aging will be holding an Indian Taco Sale fund raiser April 21, 2012 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The sale will be held at the Tulsa Creek Indian Community Center located at 8611 S. Union in Tulsa.

A taco, drink and dessert are $8, and a silent auction will also be held. Proceeds will be used to attend the conference.

For more information call (918) 298-2464.

CMN calls for commentary by April 21, 2012

OKMULGEE — The College of the Muscogee Nation is seeking comments from the public about the college in preparation for its periodic evaluation by its regional accrediting agency.

CMN will host a visit May 21-23, 2012, with a team representing the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association.

The team will review the institution's ongoing ability to meet the Commission's Criteria for Accreditation. The public may submit comments on the Commission's Web Site at www.ncahlc.org

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs and must be must be in writing and received by April 21, 2012.

Arts and crafts fair fund raiser set for April 21

OKEMAH — A fund raiser for the second annual Spirit of Oklahoma Football Camp will be held as an Arts & Crafts Fair April 21, 2012 in Okemah, Okla., at the Okfuskee County Fairgrounds.

The public is invited to browse and purchase items from a variety of vendors, from 12:30-4:30 p.m.

Besides pre-registration for the camp, a silent auction is available for authentic autographed posters of former OU greats like Sam Bradford, Brian Bozworth, Ryan Broyles, Barry Switzer and others.

The funds raised for this event will be used to offset the costs of the camp including: advertisements, coaches' honorariums, reproduction-copies, T-shirts for participants and coaches, food, drinks and other costs related to conducting the event.

For more information, contact Sandi Golden 405-786-2635 or 918-623-6437.

Resilient Farmer Workshop set for April 28

POTEAU — The Resilient Farmer Workshop is set for Sat., April 28, 2012 at the Kerr Center. The event is from 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., at Kerr Center Stewardship Ranch.

Registration/check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. Please register by April 23, 2012, as space is limited.

At this workshop participants will learn about innovative approaches to building soil fertility and becoming more self-sufficient on the farm.

Emphasis will be on using innovative approaches to building soil fertility for sustainable market farming.

Cost is $35 and includes lunch. Further details are on the Kerr Center Web site at: http://kerrcenter.com/joomla/eventlist/details/137-the-resilentfarmer-workshop.

Participants may register by contacting the Kerr Center at 918-674-9123 or via email: mailbox@kerrcenter.com

Children's Mental Health Awareness Day set for Wednesday May 9, 2012

SAPULPA — Mental, emotional, and behavioral issues are real. They can be very painful, and challenging. These concerns are a source of stress for children and their families, schools, and communities.

The number of children and their families who are affected by mental, emotional, and behavioral challenges is significant. It is estimated that as many as one in five children and adolescents may have a mental health challenge that can be identified and require treatment.

What are the causes of mental illness? Through research, it is becoming clear that many of these conditions are caused by biology, psychological and environment, or a combination.

Some examples of biological aspects are genetics, chemical imbalances in the body and damage to the central nervous system, such as defects to certain areas of the brain.

Psychological factors include, server trauma suffered as a child, emotional, physical, or sexual abuse. Many environmental aspects also can affect your mental health, including exposure to violence, extreme stress, and the loss of an important person.

Families and communities working together can help children, and adolescents with mental health challenges.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Behavioral Health & Substance Abuse program has a range of services to meet the necessary needs of children and their families.

To help support your local community efforts to raise awareness about children's mental health please contact Lindsley Harry, Social Marketing Coordinator at (918) 224-9307. Protecting the Future (CMHI grant) will provide presentations and brochures to promote public education concerning mental health.

Spirit of Oklahoma Football Camp set for July 6-7

WELEETKA — The second annual Spirit of Oklahoma Football Camp is set for July 6-7, 2012 at the Weleetka Football Field in Weleetka.

University of Oklahoma Sooner Football great Jamelle Holieway and friends will be conducting the one-day camp for youth ages 8-16.

The camp is geared to host youth within the 35-40 mile radius of Weleetka.

Last year, the camp was host to 106 youth and the numbers are expected to double for 2012.

For more information, contact Sandi Golden 405-786-2635 or 918-623-6437.

MCN Food Distribution Program Open House set for April 30

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Food Distribution Program will celebrate 30 years of service on Monday, April 30, 2012.

An open house will begin at 11 a.m., at the food distribution site located at 3001 N. Wood Dr., in Okmulgee. Guests will enjoy a program including employee service recognition, flute music from Pastor Nelson Harjo and refreshments made from commodities.

Tours will be provided immediately following the ceremony to be conducted by Edwin Marshall and Principal Chief George Tiger.

The MCN is one of only four tribes in Oklahoma to have multiple food Distribution sites for clients. The program serves all 11 counties within the MCN jurisdiction and over 3,000 people each month. The program also provides home deliveries to elder and disabled clients and tailgates to three sites each month. The program employs 16 staff, with two having over 25 years experience.

For more information, please contact Anna Cruce at 918-732-2402.

Graduate edition deadline set for Friday, May 25

Rebecca Landsberry
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE — The *Muscogee Nation News* will be featuring 2012 Muscogee (Creek) Nation graduates in an upcoming summer edition.

Graduate submissions should include full name of graduate, school, university or technical institution, parents, ceremonial ground, church, tribal town, clan and any awards/accomplishments (150 word limit).

A recent digital photo should also be included with graduate's information, which must be submitted via e-mail no later than Friday, May 25, 2012. Submissions should be sent to gfife@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

For more information, please contact Gary Fife at 918-732-7643.

RIB BASKET $6.50
Ribs, Fries, Baked Beans & Texas Toast
RIBS (FULL SLAB) $15.50
STEAK & SHRIMP $12.25
10 oz. New York Strip, 6 Jumbo Fried Shrimp Salad and Hot Roll
CHICKEN FRIED STEAK $6.25
Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable & Roll
BRISKET SANDWICH
Sliced $5.50
Chopped Beef $5.25
Council Oak CAFE
From some good ole smoked BBQ to your favorite comfort foods, we are serving it all up in a whole new way.
Hand cut steaks, Brisket and Ribs smoked right here at the casino. You'll love the food and at a price that can't be beat!
Stop by or call in your order today at the Council Oak Cafe located inside the One Fire Casino.
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THIS FACILITY IS REGULATED BY THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION OFFICE OF PUBLIC GAMING

Adopt

Continued from Page 1

MNN/*Darren DeLaune*

There are currently 288 Muscogee (Creek) children of all ages in foster and adoptive custody in the state of Oklahoma. Parents need not be perfect to provide a loving home for these children.

According to the mission statement the goal of the Foster Care Program is:

"To provide a temporary home for minor children removed from the home of their natural parent[s], custodians or guardians due to abuse and/or neglect, and who have been or will be deprived or are voluntarily placed with the consent of their natural parents…"

A priority of the program is to keep the children with their original family. The biological parents of the children in state or tribal custody are often put into treatment programs by the court in an effort to give them a chance to correct the behavior that has deemed them unfit. It is during this period, that children are only eligible for foster care.

The fostering part of the program is just as important as adoption.

"I've not seen an adoption go through since September. We don't have parental rights terminated every day. A lot of them [birth parents] will drag it out as long as they can. I've had kids that were four when they got in the system and they're 14 and ready to be adopted," said Barnett.

The program offers a stipend that covers financial burdens the child has while they are in foster care.

If the parent has failed to convince officials that they are capable of caring for their children, their parental rights are then terminated. Another member of the children's family can still take custody at this point. It is only after every means of keeping the children with their family has failed that they can be considered for adoption.

It is this extensive process from foster care to adoption that makes the final step of finding the child a permanent home, so difficult.

"They've been moved around so much that it is hard to place them," said Barnett.

Barnett pointed out how this problem leads to one of the program's greatest needs.

"We direly need placement and adoption homes for older children. They're good kids. . ."

— Tammi Reed-Barnett,
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Adoption and Foster Care Program

"We direly need placement and adoption homes for older children. They're good kids; of course they have trust issues. They've been moved around a lot. Maybe they've been told mom and dad are doing well and they fall off the wagon or start doing something bad again. We find out about it and they don't get to go home," she said.

Some of the realities of this program can lead to misconceptions by those looking to adopt.

"We usually don't just go in and take them as babies. We try to give the parents every opportunity to do right. Most people have in their mind when they are looking to adopt that they want this little baby. The only little one I've seen since September was a little three-day old baby girl. We had plenty of homes that wanted that little baby," said Barnett.

Even this child was not ever eligible for adoption.

"That baby didn't get to stay long. It's kind of like, don't get your heart too attached but love that baby while you've got it. Maybe the mom starts doing right, or a family member might show up out of the woodwork, and we have to give that child to the family member," said Barnett.

People hoping to adopt younger children may also want to consider another issue.

"Another thing I wanted people to know is a lot of our adoptions are multiple children homes. Maybe we'll have a placement situation for four kids, and we want to keep them together. They may be three, four and five-years-old," said Barnett.

There are many other misconceptions Barnett wishes to clarify as well.

"People need to know that if you are out-of-state, you cannot foster or adopt because we cannot monitor the [living] situation," she said.

She explained some other common misunderstandings about the application process.

"I get people that will fill out the request for application, out of 10 of those, I will get one back. They think they want to do it and then they get to read the rules and regulations. They see, 'Oh I can't spank that kid, I can't take that kid to church if they don't want to go,' " said Barnett.

In order to provide the best homes for the children, the application for adoption is extensive and delves into personal aspects of applicants' lives.

Potential applicants should not be discouraged, however.

"We just want the kid out of the bad situation that they are in. We want someone that wants to help and care and has time for a child in their life," said Barnett.

The children share Barnett's feelings on their own placement.

"From what I've seen, these kids just want a home. I had one little boy tell me all he wanted was a mom who took care of him, protected him and cooked well," said Barnett.

Another one of Barnett's goals is to place children in homes with knowledge of native culture.

"It is my mission to keep the tradition alive, to keep the kids with the natives. I like the natives that maybe go to the stomp dances, not that it's a preference, but people that like to go to stuff that's going on with the Creek Nation and talk about old times," she said.

The Indian Child Welfare Act is federal legislation that supports this mission to place native children in the system back into native foster and adoptive homes. However, the children are not limited to placement with their specific tribe.

"We do get calls from the Cherokee tribe if they have some children that they just can't place. We also get calls from Choctaw, Seminole, on native Children that need to be placed. Those needs are always adoption; it's never a foster situation," said Barnett.

There are many kids within the system looking for permanent homes. A lifetime commitment is not required to help the Foster Care and Adoption Program and its children.

"I would like to see more people step up and do something. Not necessarily adopt. The foster end is really a great need. We really need respite homes we need emergency placement homes, people who will take a child home overnight until we can find somebody. On the foster side, maybe just somebody that can take a kid to Eufaula during the weekend," said Barnett.

Adoption.com defines respite care as:

"Temporary or short-term home care of a child that is provided, by adults other than the birth parents, foster parents, or adoptive parents that the child normally resides with, which is designed to give the parents some time away from the child, and even the child some time away from the parents, to allow them to emotionally recharge and become better prepared to handle the normal day-to-day challenges of parenting."

According to Barnett, even these little efforts can have an impact.

"It makes a huge difference, if they have somebody they can go see on the weekend. To their ego, it just makes them stand a little straighter and smile a little wider," she said.

The need for homes has increased, but so has the efforts of the program. Barnett has been busy advocating for her program since her hire date in September.

"I've gone so far as to be on KVOO, I've been on the radio with Creek Nation. I've got ads running on the phone lines here when you are on hold. I've tried every resource known to man. I take it home with me at night. I will call that kid maybe at night and ask if they are all right and let them know I was thinking about them," she said.

She has no intention of slowing down.

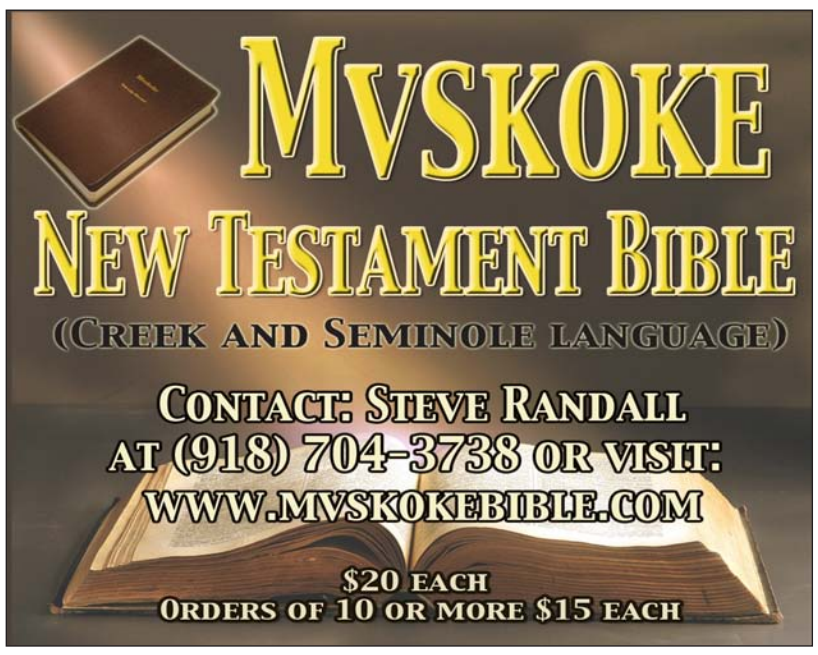
"I feel like there is a lot more out there that I haven't reached yet," said Barnett.

Despite this feeling and the increasing need, Barnett believes she is making progress.

"The word is getting out. At all the events I always talk. I say 'I want to tell you guys how many kids need homes and where these kids are going – it's group homes. 'Is that really what we want as a tribe?' " she asked.

For more information on the Foster Care and Adoption Program contact Muscogee (Creek) Nation Children and Family Services at 800-521-5432, 918-732-7869.

Change a life.
Become a Foster/Adoptive Parent
GREAT SEAL OF THE MUSCOGEE NATION I. T.
Children. Keepers of our tradition.
NICWA
National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting our children • Preserving our culture
Preserve our heritage, become a foster/adoption parent today.
In the State of Oklahoma, there are Muscogee Creek Children in state and tribal custody looking for a place to call "cuko" (home).
Become a Foster/Adoptive tribal home.
For more information contact: Tammi Reed-Barnett
at (918)732-7883 OR email: tammirb@muscogeenation-nsn.gov



Longacre brings excitement to fitness community

MNN/Christina Good Voice

Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizen Thomas "Thunderkick" Longacre (pictured at left) will host the grand opening for his gym, Thunderkick Fitness, located at 8660 S. Peoria, in Tulsa, Okla., Saturday, May 5.

Darren DeLaune
MNN Sports Reporter

TULSA – Thomas "Thunderkick" Longacre is moving back to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, and he is bringing something with him to help out the martial arts community and people who are looking to get in shape. He is bringing his gym, Thunderkick Fitness, to Oklahoma.

"Thunderkick Fitness is open, I'm back and the gym is here," the 34-year-old MCN citizen said.

Longacre is a well-known fighter who competes in mixed martial arts competitions throughout the country. For the past six years, Longacre has lived in Tyler, Texas, where the first Thunderkick Fitness gym opened in 2010. He helped the community with martial arts programs such as Beginning MMA, Advanced MMA, cardio kickboxing and children's martial arts programs for ages 4-12.

Longacre said he felt the need to give back to the communities where he grew up. Longacre grew up in Kellyville, Okla. He said he feels his gym would be a great addition to Indian Country. Longacre then made the decision to move back to Oklahoma permanently and to open Thunderkick Fitness.

"Being back among the people that I have been raised around and to be able to give them the opportunity to learn MMA or to get in shape is a great feeling," Longacre said.

While the gym is now in Tulsa, Okla., he still has his MMA team in Texas and will be traveling to help and support his team when they have competitions.

While Longacre has been working to get his gym open the past few months, it did not slow him down from also going out into the communities and speaking to the youth. Longacre has been speaking at his alma mater, Kellyville High School, and a juvenile detention center in Enid, Okla., to share his experiences growing up.

"Coming from the Kellyville, Creek County area, it is good to share my experiences of my life and my career and to let them know that even though you come from a small area you can make something of yourself," Longacre said.

Longacre and his staff teach a variety of martial arts styles.

"I teach a style that I was raised on which is more of a taekwondo and a Goju-Ryu style," Longacre said. "I also want to teach other styles such as boxing, wrestling, kickboxing, and MMA."

Longacre wants to combine all the specialties into one to help make a true mixed martial artist.

"I do not want to be a one-dimensional fighter. I want to challenge my students to not be as well. To make themselves better in not just one specialty, but many, and to adapt to any situation."

Many people may believe that mixed martial arts encourages violence, but Longacre said it does the opposite.

"We do not teach our students to go out and start fights," he said. "We teach them how to defend themselves in case they have no choice. A lot of our fight stances will show us with our hands up."

Longacre said that stance shows the person is avoiding confrontation.

"If and only when they cannot get out of a situation is when they have to defend themselves," Longacre said.

Being a well-known fighter, many ask when he will fight again.

Longacre said his next fight will probably be in the fall.

"Right now my focus is on my gym to make sure it is successful getting people to learn what I learn, get in shape and have a great time doing that," he said.

For more information about Thunderkick Fitness and what programs it has to offer, call 918-528-3241. Thunderkick Fitness is at 8660 S. Peoria, Tulsa, Okla., or email Thomas@thunderkickfitness.com.

Grand opening for Thunderkick Fitness is May 5.

Bend

Continued from Page 1

As stated on the National Park Service Horseshoe Bend website, "In the spring [March 27] of 1814, Gen. Andrew Jackson and an army of 3,300 men attacked 1,000 Upper Creek warriors on the Tallapoosa River. Over 800 Upper Creeks died defending their homeland. Never before or since in the history of our country have so many American Indians lost their lives in a single battle…"

After opening remarks from the Park Superintendent, the Muscogee delegation was introduced and sang two Muscogee hymns to the crowd of visitors. Marshall then delivered a message of gratitude from Principal Chief Tiger stating, "We are very much grateful to the National Park Service for preserving and telling the history of Horseshoe Bend. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation anticipates and looks forward to the continued collaboration and participation with the National Park Service as we approach the Bicentennial of the Battle of Horseshoe Bend in 2014."

Ridge also delivered a similar message conveying the "continued importance of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to maintain a cultural presence within our homelands of Alabama."

In similar spirit of Tiger and Ridge's message of collaboration and cultural sharing, the Muscogee delegation conducted a social stomp dance demonstration marking the direct cultural ties the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has to Horseshoe Bend and our ancestral homelands in Alabama.

Additionally, the Muscogee delegation was able to finish the day visiting Fort Toulouse in nearby Wetumpka, Ala. Fort Toulouse, also known as Fort Jackson, is the site where the Treaty of Fort Jackson was signed following the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation was forced to cede nearly 23 million acres of homelands to the United States.

MCN/Justin Giles

Pictured above is the Muscogee (Creek) delegation which traveled to Horseshoe Bend National Military Park, Ala., in March.

MUSCOGEE NATION
38th annual Festival 2012

FRI 6 • 8		**SAT 6 • 23**	
7:00 p.m.	Miss/Jr. Miss Muscogee Nation Pageant	8:00 a.m.	Golf Tournament–Fountainhead
			5k Walk/Run
FRI 6 • 15			Fast Pitch Softball Tournament
6:00 p.m.	Slow Pitch Softball Tournament		Horseshoe Tournament
		9:00	Youth 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament
SAT 6 • 16			Children's Corn Stalk Shoot
8:00 a.m.	Slow Pitch Softball Tournament		Volleyball Tournament
9:00	Adult 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament		INFR Rodeo–SLACK
11:00	Muscogee Royalty Reception –Council House Museum	9:00-Noon	Safety Seat Check–MCN Complex
		9:30-4:30	Council House Indian Art Festival –Council House Museum
7:00 p.m.	Creeks Got Talent–Okmulgee High School Auditorium	10:00 a.m.	Festival Parade, 6th Street
			Children's Fun Fair
SUN 6 • 17			
8:00 a.m.	Slow Pitch Softball Tournament–Finals	11:00	Arts & Crafts/Food Vendors
		2:00-6:00 p.m.	Creek Hymn/Gospel Singing –MCN Complex
THU 6 • 21			
Noon	Cornstalk Range Open–MCN Complex	3:00	Traditional Corn Stalk Shoot –MCN Complex
7:30 p.m.	Stomp Dance–MCN Complex		
		6:00-9:00	All-Indian Rodeo Finals
FRI 6 • 22		7:00	The TEMPTATIONS
8:00 a.m.	Golf Tournament–Fountainhead HWY 150, Checotah, OK	9:00	GLADYS KNIGHT
	Junior Olympics–Harmon Stadium	**SUN 6 • 24**	
	Senior Citizens Activities–Senior Housing, Polokse Circle	8:00 a.m.	Fast Pitch Softball Tournament–Finals
9:00 a.m.	Traditional Skills–MCN Complex		
10:00 a.m.	Children's Fun Fair		All events, unless otherwise noted, will occur at the Claude Cox Omniplex & Bob Arrington Rodeo Arena (behind MCN Travel Plaza/ Burger King, NW corner of HWY 75 & SH-56 Loop intersection–Okmulgee, OK)
5:00 p.m.	Arts & Crafts/Food Vendors		
6:00	Fast Pitch Softball Tournament		
6:30-9:00	INFR Rodeo		
9:00	LIVE ENTERTAINMENT TBA		*ALL DATES AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Awepvks! (ah-wē' buks) Everyone come!
918.732.7992 | tourism@MuscogeeNation-nsn.gov
www.MuscogeeNation-nsn.gov

Tourism & Recreation

All Festival visitors agree that entry into any of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival events constitutes consent for the MCN Tourism & Recreation Department to use any film, photographs, video or reproduction of image and/or voice bearer for any purpose whatsoever without any payment to the visitor. Visitors shall not sell, dispense, or consume any form of illegal drugs or alcoholic beverages during any MCN Festival related events. Pets are not allowed at any MCN Festival related events. Thank you for your cooperation. Mvto!

Cancer Care Community Education offered in Eufaula through May

Media Release
MCN Division of Health

EUFAULA — The Native Navigators will host cancer continuum sessions at the Eufaula Indian Community Center (Skate Zone) beginning April 9, 2012 with a family fun event.

The 12 educational workshops will continue through May 31. Sessions will be held every Monday and Thursday for six weeks.

NNACC has completed two workshop sessions, Okmulgee and Holdenville areas, with a great response.

Okmulgee had a total of 203 participants with an average attendance of 60 per session.

Holdenville had a total of 68 participants with an average of 40 per session.

The navigators are Loretta Denny (918) 441-6049 and Patricia Coachman (918) 441-6048, office (918) 758-2710. Debra Isham is the project manager.

Everyone 18 years or older will receive a $10 gift card after each session for participation.

Location: Eufaula Indian Community Center (Skating Ring) 800 Birks Rd., Eufaula

Dates: April 9 – June 4, 2012
Time: 6 – 8 p.m.
Family Fun Event:
Monday, April 9
Overview:
Thursday, April 12 - Cancer 100
Prevention:
Monday, April 16 – Energy Balance
Thursday, April 19 – Healthy Eating
Monday, April 30 – Exposure to Environmental Contaminants
Early Detection:
Thursday, May 3– Get on the Path to Breast Health
Monday, May 7 – Get on the Path to Colon Health
Thursday, May 10 – Get on the Path to Lung Health
Monday, May 14 – Get on the Path to Cervix Health
Thursday, May 17 - Get on the Path to Prostate Health
Survivorship:
Monday, May 21 – Side Effects
Thursday, May 31– Survivors' Support Circles
Comfort/Palliative Care
Monday, June 4 – Wills & Advance Directive

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Lighthorse

Continued from Page 1

MNN/Gary Fife
Pictured above is Weleetka Police Chief Hub Pangle in the vehicle donated by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Police Department.

Small town police agencies that haven't received a Lighthorse vehicle donation in a while are the most likely to receive a car. These are usually local departments that Lighthorse may work with in some instances, so Fixico said he's glad to help them out. The result is an enhanced relationship between the two agencies. According to Fixico, "It seems like, when we can help them out, it does create a stronger bond with us. We're going to help each other regardless of equipment, just because we're the 'brothers-in-blue' and we're going to help other, no matter what."

Chief Joseph Dawson of the Morris Police Department is one of the recipients of a surplus Lighthorse unit. For the Morris police, the donation releases some budgetary pressure, "I'm sure, like most agencies, we're strapped by tax income. The economy is just bad right now. It's hard with our tax base, trying to make ends meet. So, this donation is incredible for us, a blessing. I can use my resources more for our community and to help our officers, as opposed to trying to get a new vehicle."

The Morris department currently has three other vehicles, all with an excess of 130,000 miles on them. Dawson confirmed a close working relationship with the Muscogee Lighthorse, "I believe we've always had a great relationship with the Lighthorse Department. They have always been there when we've needed assistance with whatever call. We are a small department with one officer on at a time, so it helps us knowing there is somebody close that can be there within a few minutes."

Chief Hub Pangle of the Weeletka Police Department also received a donation of a vehicle.

Pangle echoes the sentiments of Dawson, "With the cutbacks in the economy, these agencies don't have the resources or money to go out and purchase these vehicles for these small towns. With a donation like this, it keeps the department up and running."

The Weeletka department is so small that the officers purchase much of their own duty gear. A reliable vehicle increases the safety factor for officers and increases service to their local population.

He said, "We're not a very big community, but when you need to get to that call that somebody needs you, you've got to get there. This is the only way that we were capable of getting this duty done," Pangle said.

The police units are valued at about $10,000 apiece when donated, so that represents a significant savings to small towns with small budgets. But the cars are not the only police inventory items that get a second life after being donated. Fixico listed inventory such as personal protection vests, belts, bags and other equipment and gear that has been donated.

MNN/Gary Fife
Pictured above from left to right is Weleetka Police Chief Hub Pangle, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Police Chief Richard Fixico, Morris Police Chief Joseph Dawson, Morris police officer Richard Phillips and MCN Lighthorse Sgt. Jerry Whitman.

Giddy up, River Spirit gamers!
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Through April 22
Rollin' ON THE RIVER
Earn entries daily for your chance to spin three prize wheels during our "Triple Spin Shoot-out" every Friday, Saturday and Sunday and you'll ride away with Rewards Play, Gift Cards, prize packages from T-Town area businesses, or the biggest bounty of bucks this side of the border! See Players Club for details.
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Primary election set for May 5, 2012; deadline for absentee ballot request forms is April 12

Media Release
MCN Election Board

OKMULGEE — *Editor's note: In the last edition of the Muscogee Nation News, the headline noted that the primary election was set for April 12. This was incorrect. We apologize for any inconvenience or confusion this may have caused our readers.*

In order to comply with Article VI, Section 2 of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Constitution, a Special Election will be held for Seat B in both Creek and Wagoner Districts.

The Special Primary Election will be May 5, 2012.

The Special General Election will be July 7, 2012, if necessary.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Constitution was recently amended to state representation of the National Council to be reduced from 26 representatives to 16 representatives by the end of 2013 with staggered terms.

A General Election was held Nov. 5, 2011 to fill vacant seats of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council for the Palen-Kolvpohkaken (17th) Session. George Tiger was sworn in to office as Principal Chief Jan. 2, 2012 and vacated National Council Representative Seat B (Creek District) with approximately two years remaining.

An election was held for one seat for the Wagoner District for the next four years, and one seat remains vacant.

VOTER REGISTRATION ELIGIBILITY

• ENROLLED CITIZEN
• 18 YEARS AND OLDER

ENROLLED CITIZENS; IF YOU ARE NOT REGISTERED A VOTER OF THE TRIBE CONTACT THE ELECTION BOARD BY CALLING 918-732-7631 OR 918-732-7736. THE REGISTRATION CLERK WILL MAIL YOU A VOTER'S REGISTRATION FORM OR YOU CAN COME BY THE ELECTION BOARD OFFICE LOCATED AT THE MAIN COMPLEX ACROSS FROM THE RECEPTION DESK. WE WILL NEED A COPY OF YOUR TRIBAL ENROLLMENT CARD.

VOTER ADDRESS

ALL MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION REGISTERED VOTERS (PRECINCT AND ABSENTEE VOTERS), CONTACT THE ELECTION BOARD OFFICE AT 918/732-7631 OR 732-7736 TO MAKE SURE YOUR VOTER INFORMATION IS UP TO DATE. VOTER, IF YOU HAVE MOVED PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE OF THE NEW ADDRESS. IF YOU KNOW OF ANY VOTER WHO IS DECEASED, PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE SO THAT HE/SHE CAN BE REMOVED FROM OUR FILES.

ABSENTEE VOTING

THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION ELECTION BOARD ENCOURAGES REGISTERED VOTERS TO REGISTER OR CHANGE THEIR VOTING STATUS AS AN ABSENTEE VOTER IF THE CITIZEN; WORKS ON WEEKENDS, HAS CHILDREN ACTIVITIES ON SATURDAYS, WILL BE OUT OF TOWN ON ELECTION DAY, ANY ELDERLY WHO IS HOME BOUND AND ALSO TO MAKE IT CONVENIENT FOR ALL REGISTERED VOTERS.

ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST FORMS WILL BE MAILED OUT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE REQUEST FORM MAY BE MAILED, EMAILED, FAXED OR BOUGHT IN PERSON TO THE ELECTION BOARD OFFICE. THE FORM MUST CONTAIN THE SIGNATURE OF THE VOTER. THE VOTER'S SIGNATURE IS VITAL TO THE ABSENTEE VOTING PROCESS.

ELECTION DATES:

ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST DEADLINE: APRIL 12, 2012 5 P.M.

ABSENTEE BALLOT MAIL OUT: APRIL 16, 2012

PRECINCT REGISTRATION DEADLINE: APRIL 25, 2012
PRIMARY ELECTION: MAY 5, 2012
POLLS OPEN: 7 A.M.-7 P.M.

ABSENTEE/PRECINCT REGISTRATION RE-OPENS: MAY 10, 2012
GENERAL ELECTION: JULY 7, 2012
POLLS OPEN: 7 A.M.-7 P.M.

ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST DEADLINE: JUNE 14, 2012 - 5 P.M.

ABSENTEE BALLOT MAIL OUT: JUNE 18, 2012

PRECINCT REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JUNE 27, 2012 - 5 P.M.

PRECINCT VOTERS

ALL PRECINCT VOTERS; ON ELECTION DAY PLEASE VOTE AT THE PRECINCT POLLING SITE WHERE YOU ARE REGISTERED. IF UNSURE, CALL THE ELECTION BOARD OFFICE BEFORE ELECTION DAY AT 918/732-7631 OR 732-7736.

ELECTION DAY, IF YOU VOTE AT A DIFFERENT POLLING SITE OTHER THEN WHERE YOU'RE REGISTERED YOUR NAME WILL NOT BE LISTED ON THAT POLL BOOK. ALL POLLING SITES ARE OPEN 7 A.M. TO 7 P.M.

SEE CANDIDATE PROFILES - 8

The Mortgage Down Payment and Closing Cost Program

The Mortgage Down Payment and Closing Cost Program helps Native Americans become first time homeowners by providing financial assistance for acquiring a home mortgage.

To pre-qualify for the program, the applicant must meet the following requirements.

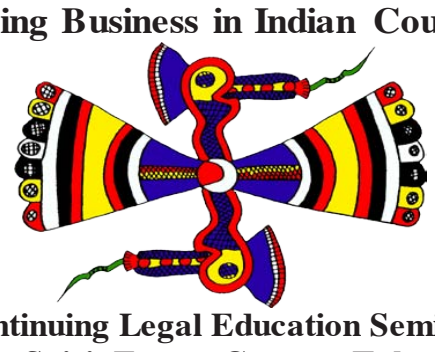
- Preference will be given to Creek Citizens.
- Be a first time home buyer or not have owned a home within five years of application.
- Live within the State of Oklahoma.
- Must not be an existing or former Mutual Help participant or NAHASDA Homebuyer/Lease with Option to Purchase regardless of Housing Service Area.
- Have an annual family income which does not exceed 80% of the national Median income as published by HUD.
- Be 18 years or older.
- Provide all requested information, which includes Citizenship cards for preference purposes, Social Security cards and employment verification for each working family member.
- Sign all required forms including the Consent for Disclosure of Information.
- Meet all credit check and financial obligations for loan assistance from an approved and certified financial lender.

FOR A PRE-APPLICATION CONTACT LADONNA NORTHCROSS AT 918-549-2554 OR VISIT THE WEBSITE AT www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov

The Mortgage Down Payment Assistance program Pre-Approval does not guarantee a Mortgage Loan from an Outside Lender.

SAVE THE DATE

10th Annual
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
"Doing Business in Indian Country"



Continuing Legal Education Seminar
River Spirit Events Center - Tulsa, OK
Thursday and Friday – May 17th & 18th

"Celebrate the 10th annual Doing Business in Indian Country CLE! Recognized speakers will discuss the Past, Present, & Future of Tribal Courts including: Court Origin; Jurisdiction; Indian Gaming and Tort Claims; Indian Child Welfare and Tribal Child Support."
Judge Gregory H. Bigler

Attendees will receive ten (10) hours of CLE Credit (Includes 1 hour of ethics)
Cost of Attendance- $200.00
****Daily Rates Available – Contact the District Court for Additional Information***

✂ - - -

Dode Barnett
National Council - Creek District

Seat: B
Clan: Bird
Tribal Town: Hecete Etvlwv
Church: Salt Creek UMC
Family: Mother is Phyllis Bruner Warrington, maternal grandparents are the late Lizzie and George Bruner. I am blessed with four children; my eldest is in college; my younger three attend Sapulpa Public Schools.

Education/Experience: 1989 graduate of Sapulpa High School, 90 hours undergraduate work in Elementary Education and managerial workplace experience.

Platform: " I would be honored to serve as a representative and humbly ask for your vote in the upcoming special election May 5, 2012. I was raised in Sapulpa and blessed with a family that loved, encouraged and taught me to serve others. I have served on our JOM and Title VII Parent Committees for several years. We must invest every available resource in our youth. What I lack in political experience, I make up for in perspective; I have experienced being failed by programs that do not always meet our citizens' needs. What I lack in degrees, I offer a common sense approach and keep the greater good in mind on all decisions. I am community minded; strong communities build a strong nation. Each district is unique with it's own needs and I would always keep this in mind. Accountability is vital to our success. Mvto, for your vote May 5!"

Frances Morgan
National Council - Creek District

Seat: B
Clan: Wind
Church: Montesoma Indian Baptist Church
Education: A.A. from Bacone Junior College; attended Northeastern Oklahoma State University

Platform: "Housing, healthcare and education seem to be the 'hot topics' every election year. Changes in these programs take years. When changes do occur, a new administration comes in replacing the personnel and starting the whole process over. I want better, too. But, some entities are better managed away from the tribe. During these economic times, I believe our communities will have to rely on our own creativeness and energy to establish enterprises that will make us less dependent on the tribe for our basic needs. Sports and entertainment isn't our priority. Revenue from our casinos is a good thing, but it's not everything. Besides, things aren't better due to so-called revenue. Our greatest assets are our employees who leave because of internal strife or higher pay. As your council person, I will not be shiesty, shaky or shady on voting. Your input will be invaluable and my voting will reflect that."

Larry Thayer
National Council - Creek District

Seat: B
Clan: Nokose (Bear)
Tribal Town: Tuskegee
Church: First United Methodist Church - Sapulpa
Family: Wife of 27 years, Melissa and two children, Mindy and Tyler

Education: Associates of Science in Agriculture from Northeastern Oklahoma A&M and Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from Oklahoma State University

Experience: Veteran of the 2/75th Ranger Battalion, Fort Lewis Washington, served as Sapulpa City Commissioner, SHOW Board member, Creek County Fair Board and on the Sapulpa Board of Education. "I am comfortable in dealing with multimillion dollar budgets. I also have been self-employed for 25 years in the retail business and I have a strong business background."

Platform: Muscogee Creek Nation is a big business and should be treated as such. Maximizing revenue in all areas available, which include gaming, smoke shops, travel plazas, investments, and etc. are critical. Members have many needs that need to be met and the more revenue generated the better chance Muscogee Creek Nation has in fulfilling these needs. Running any successful business requires a strong accountability process, which can track all funds being spent. This can determine which entities are profitable and which are not. A good business plan is proactive not reactive. Let's determine small problems before they turn into big problems. This is what I do everyday. Muscogee Creek Nation is doing okay, but I have never been satisfied with okay. We can do a lot better. I feel that I would be an asset to an already excellent council. New Face – New Ideas – Businessman

Dean Tiger
National Council - Creek District

Seat: B
Clan: Wind (Hotvlkvlke)
Ceremonial Ground: Hickory Ground (Loce Vpofv)
Church: Yardeka Baptist Church

Experience: Served nine years on Kellyville Community Executive Committee - five years chairman and four years as vice chairman 2003-2012, Mvskoke language teacher

Platform: "When I declared my candidacy for this office, it was through much prayer and consideration. I did not just make a snap decision. After consulting with family and friends, I weighted how effective my voice would be in the National Council with the understanding that I will be serving the citizens of the Mvskoke Nation and them only. With a new administration in place, I believe we are at the threshold of a momentous opportunity to provide the types of changes and services that our people finally deserve. The preamble of our constitution states this: 'Under the guidance of the Almighty God, our Creator, we are the people of the Mvskoke (Creek) Nation do promote unity.' This sums it up; we are the people. We as a people must engage in this endeavor of seeing that every Mvskoke citizen is treated with the dignity and respect they deserve. Hvnyomet cenponayvt cekicit os yehv vntat fvtconokis."

Roman Watashe
National Council - Creek District

Seat: B
Clan: Nokose (Bear)
Ceremonial Ground: Polecat-Euchee
Church: Picket Chapel, Little Cussetah Baptist Church Honorary Deacon; Royal Ambassador Leader
Family: Two sons, Solomon and Ben Watashe

Military Service: Served and retired from the Marine Corps and the Army over 20 years as Platoon Sergeant.

Education/ Experience: Euchee Boarding School, Washington Public School, Senyca Indian School, Advance Schools Inc., Mobile Engines at OSU Okmulgee, Electrical Associated Independent, Electrical Journeyman and Contractor (4 years) and Reserve Law Enforcement School (2000 - 2001). Spent 27 years for Muscogee (Creek) Nation as security and law enforcement, 12 years as electrician for SECO Electric Company; three years as electrician for Tulsa County; over six years at Liberty Glass Plant in the decorating section; learned and performed all duties in the department including Regent and Foreman.

Served as a community leader by initiating the Kellyville Creek Nation Indian Community along with other community members to ensure representation of our community. Part of the group who began the Title 9 program at Kellyville Public Schools and served as the Chairman of the Parent Committee. As a result, Native American Indian History was taught as a part of the Kellyville curriculum, a first in Oklahoma.

Goals: "My main goal as representative is to serve and be the voice of tribal citizens. I will visit the communities to hear the concerns of citizens. I will work with other members of the Council to meet goals and work to preserve our sovereignty. As a member of the Council, I will provide information to citizens on casino profits and how they are being used. And finally, I want to listen to the elders of our nation for wisdom and our young people, who are the future, so we can be a successful nation."

Barbara Gillespie
National Council - Wagoner District

Seat: B
Clan: Sweet Potato
Tribal Town: Locvpokv
Church: Davis Chapel
Family: Parents are the late Mose Childers and Violet (Williams) Childers, Freeman

Experience: Served 12 years on the National Council; Business owner and operator for 13 years; real estate sales for 35 years; Wagoner County Economic Advisory Board, three years; Coweta Public Schools Indian Education Coordinator, six years.

Platform: "As Wagoner, Rogers and Mayes District representative, I have served as chairperson of the Tribal Affairs, Human Development, Community Services Committee and Vice-chairperson of the Fact Finding Committee of the National Council. Medical care, elder care, education, job training, language, tradition/cultural preservation and most of all economic development are priorities that are facing us today and will be in the future. It is a continuing battle to stay abreast of the ever increasing needs of the people, as our citizenship rolls continue to increase. I bring to the National Council, EXPERIENCE, EDUCATION, LEADERSHIP AND DEDICATION. I ask for your vote and support to elect me to serve as your National Council representative from the Wagoner, Rogers and Mayes District. MVTO."

Mark Randolph
National Council - Wagoner District

Seat: B
Clan: Bird
Tribal Town: Nuyakv
Church: New Joy Indian Baptist
Family: Mother Brenda (Noble) Walker, father Thomas Ray Randolph; maternal grandmother, Gertie (Tiger) Noble; Paternal grandmother, Patsy (Gray) Randolph, maternal great-grandparents: Ben Tiger and Sally (Smith) Tiger; paternal great grandparents: Mose Gray and Manoah (Bemo) Gray

Education: AA in Liberal Arts, Haskell Indian Junior College; Bachelors Degree in Social Work - University of Kansas; Masters of Social Work - University of Kansas

Platform: "Hensci Komakvte. As a young man, I was encouraged to achieve an education then return home to serve our people. As a servant leader, I believe prayer is our greatest strength and people are our number one resource. I believe all citizens should be entitled to services as stated in our tribal nation's constitution, regardless of where they live. I will work to serve all citizens equally and to the best of my ability. I am a strong advocate for our children/youth; they are our key investment for our future. I love and respect our elders; they have made life possible for future generations with hard work, determination, resilience, and prayer. Our nation should provide for our golden age people in every way possible. Mvto for the votes of confidence in the 2011 election, it was a great experience. I am ready to serve the Mvskoke (Creek) people."

2012 MCN voter precincts

Creek District
• Bristow Indian Community Center
710 S. Main St.
• Sapulpa Indian Community Center
1020 N. Brown St.

Mcintosh District
• Eufaula Indian Community Center
800 Forest Ave.
• Checotah Indian Community Center
500 Owens Ave.
• Hanna Indian Community Center
Last road through Hanna, turn east and go four miles
• Yardeka Indian Community Center
Eight miles SE of Henryetta (one mile south of Salem Baptist) S. 250 Rd.

Muskogee District
• Muscogee Indian Community Center
111 South Virginia

Okfuskee
• Okemah Indian Community Center
1100 S. Woody Guthrie St.
• Weleetka Indian Community
602 S. Chickasaw

Okmulgee District
• Dewar Indian Community Center
212 Luella St.
• Okmulgee Indian Community Center
2701 N. Miami
• Twin Hills Community Center
8110 Highway 52

Tukvpvtce (Hughes) District
• Dustin Indian Community Center
Main Street
• Holdenville Indian Community Center
224 E. Poplar
• Wetumka Indian Community Center
608 N. Creek St.

Tulsa District
• Glenpool Indian Community Center
13839 S. Casper
• Tulsa Indian Community Center
8611 South Union

Wagoner District
• Koweta Indian Community
30925 E. 141st St. S.

Muscogee Nation News

May 1, 2012
Vol. 42, Issue 9

Official semi-monthly publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

MCN purchases Jenks Riverwalk Crossing for $11.5 million

Rebecca Landsberry
MNN Editor

JENKS — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation purchased Riverwalk Crossing in Jenks for $11.5 million Tuesday, April 17, 2012.

The 175,000-square-foot property is located on the banks of the Arkansas River and is valued at over $17 million. It was purchased at the Tulsa County Sheriff's auction with the approval of the MCN National Council.

At a press conference held on the newly acquired property in Jenks the next day, Principal Chief George Tiger said the tribe has plans to use the area to expand economic development. According to Tiger, the tribe's next step will be to locate a management group on the national level to evaluate the property for retail potential. Tiger noted aggressiveness is crucial to the process.

"I believe that having an outside management group come in to do an evaluation to look at and talk at the direction we need to take on this journey is, I think, going to be key," Tiger said.

Tiger said the tribe plans to put the land in trust and that the response to the purchase has been positive.

"If the response that we've received from everyone in the short time we've done this is any indicator of what to expect in the future, we're very pleased," Tiger said.

Located across the river from Muscogee (Creek) Nation's River Spirit Tulsa casino, Jenks Riverwalk Crossing is another step in expanding the tribe's impact on the local and state economies.

"Collectively, especially here in the state of Oklahoma, tribes are one of the largest employers in the state and we give back to the state. We give back to the counties. We give back to the communities that we live in," Tiger said.

He noted citizens from all over the United States have contacted him with comments and ideas about the development of the property and said gaming and smoke shops would not be included in the enterprise. He also mentioned the possibility of providing an avenue for Muscogee (Creek) and other native artisans to share their craft with the public.

"We do have some of the most outstanding artists in the country and we want to give them an opportunity to come here and show their works," he added.

"Our tribal members are very excited about this . . . As native people, we believe in family. That's been a strong point of our ability to endure throughout the generations. We believe that family is important and we're going to have a family concept at this facility," he said.

SEE RIVER - 6

MNN/Sterling Cosper

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger (at podium) addressed media at a press conference in Jenks Wednesday, April 18, 2012 where he answered questions regarding the purchase of Riverwalk Crossing for $11.5 million. Also pictured from left to right are MNBE CEO Woody Anderson, In-House Legal Counsel Yonne Tiger, MCN National Council Second Speaker Cherrah Ridge and MCN Housing Director J.D. Colbert.

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Eufaula Indian Community elects new officers

Rebecca Landsberry
MNN Editor

EUFAULA — The Eufaula Creek Indian Community selected seven officers at the election held Thursday, April 14, 2012 from 7-9 p.m., at the community-owned Skate Zone.

The election date was established in by EIC at a community meeting earlier this year.

Julea Wilson received 118 votes over Judd Pickering's 53 for the chairman of the community.

Vice chairman is Selina Jayne Dornan who captured 85 votes. Lisa Floyd followed Dornan with 54, Susie Deere captured 22 and Elizabeth Barnett seized 11 votes.

Treasurer is Laurie Bevenue who received 91 votes over former treasurer Edna Belcher's 81.

Members-at-large are Bobby Sullivan (Seat 1), Phyllis Colbert (Seat 2) and Nellie Hallum (Seat 3).

Francis Lewis secured the Membership Seat 2 with 109 votes to Debbie Pruitt's 61.

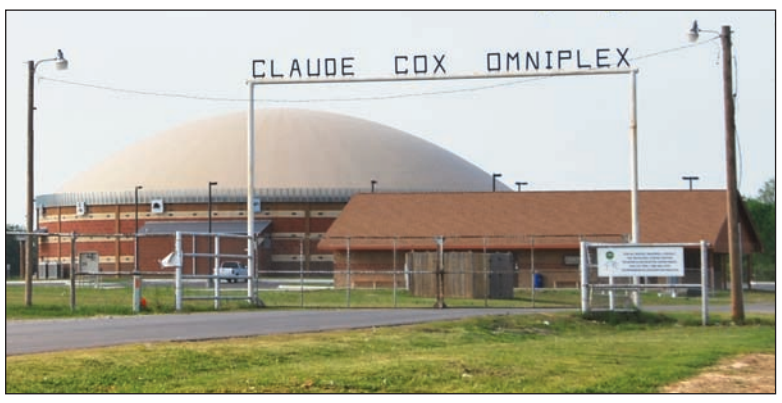
Chief orders immediate closure of multipurpose building

Christina Good Voice
MCN Communications Manager

OKMULGEE — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger issued an executive order April 10 that called for the immediate closure of the tribe's multipurpose 'Mvskoke Dome' building after engineering and construction experts deemed the strength and structural integrity of the building compromised during its construction and completion.

The 20,000-square-foot facility was dedicated in June 2011 by former Principal Chief A.D. Ellis. The building is located at the Claude A. Cox Omniplex.

"As Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, I have consulted with engineering and construction experts who have determined that the strength and structural integrity of the multi-purpose building has been compromised during its construction and completion, and some of the materials used to complete the building are of substandard quality which need to be replaced," Tiger wrote in the executive order's findings.



MCN/Rebecca Landsberry

The structure of the Mvskoke Dome (MCN Multipurpose Building) was deemed compromised earlier this month. The dome is currently closed until further notice.

Tiger is ordering a thorough review of all construction materials by structural engineers and construction experts to ensure that the building is safe for tribal citizens and the general public.

"It is necessary to take immediate action to ensure that the multi-purpose building is up to standards required by building codes and by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation," Tiger wrote.

The building was closed at 5 p.m., April 10 until further notice, and no person shall be allowed in the building except for structural engineers, construction experts and designated individuals that will be assessing the structure and making recommendations.

For more information, contact the Office of the Principal Chief at 918-732-7604 or the Office of the Second Chief at 918-732-7912.

Primary election for Wagoner and Creek Districts Seat B set for May 5, 2012

Media Release
MCN Election Board

OKMULGEE — In order to comply with Article VI, Section 2 of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Constitution, a Special Election will be held for Seat B in both Creek and Wagoner Districts.

The Special Primary Election will be May 5, 2012.

The Special General Election will be July 7, 2012, if necessary.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Constitution was recently amended to state representation of the National Council to be reduced from 26 representatives to 16 representatives by the end of 2013 with staggered terms.

A General Election was held Nov. 5, 2011 to fill vacant seats of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council for the Palen-Kolvpohkaken (17th) Session. George Tiger was sworn in to office as Principal Chief Jan. 2, 2012 and vacated National Council Representative Seat B (Creek District) with approximately two years remaining.

An election was held for one seat for the Wagoner District for the next four years, and one seat remains vacant.

SEE ELECTION - 15

MNN 2 - LEGAL
MCN District Court hosts 10th annual Continuing Legal Education Seminar

MNN 4 - PROGRAMS
Mutual benefits felt between Muscogee (Creek) father and his adopted children

MNN 5 - CAPITOL NEWS
MCN men strut in heels to help women walk tall against sexual assault

MNN 10 - PEOPLE
Accomplishment: Marissa Proctor

MNN 13 - EDUCATION
New 2012 graduates at CMN

Letters to the editor

Citizen disagrees with MNN policy on announcements

OKMULGEE — To the Editor:

I am writing in response to a notification published in the April edition of the Muscogee Nation News (MNN). The notification states that effective as of April 1, 2012 the MNN will no longer be accepting "announcements" for publication. I believe this to be an ill conceived idea for a way to obtain additional space for news and other editorial content. The announcements submitted by tribal members are by the very definition of the word news themselves. It is obvious by anyone who reads the paper that the numerous announcements submitted by tribal members are an important part of the MNN and help to provide a sense of pride and community for tribal members. The notification also states that announcements may still be submitted for possible inclusion on the MNN Facebook page however, many tribal members do not have access to a computer or the internet. This policy will effectively cut off this portion of news from many tribal this portion of news from many tribal members, which includes many of our elders.

Sincerely,
Joshua D. Castleman

Citizen thanks Senior Services for Horseshoe Bend visit

HORSESHOE BEND, Ala. — Muscogee Nation News, I want to take this means of expressing my thanks to Creek Nation Senior Services Manager David Dunson and to bus driver Red Hicks for the wonderful trip to the 198th anniversary of the Battle of Horseshoe Bend in Alabama.

We had a great trip. The weather was great and we had a lot of fun visiting and singing our Creek songs. The people were very nice to us everywhere we went.

The trip was a very meaningful one for me. I happen to be a direct descendent of Chief William McIntosh, Jr., who had a big part in the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. It was a great experience to be able to walk around on the ground where ancestors once did. It is a beautiful place. Now, the government has made it a national park and it is being taken care of. I hope to be able to go back down there when they have the 200th anniversary celebration.

Again, I say thanks so much to those who made the trip possible. We were blessed in so many ways. We got to see quite a lot of the country and I enjoyed meeting and visiting with those who made the trip. There were 41 elders in the group and we all had a most enjoyable time.

Mvto,
Margaret Floyd

Muscogee Nation News
STAFF

Manager - Christina Good Voice
Editor - Rebecca Landsberry
Editorial Assistant - Gary Fife
Reporter - Sterling Cosper
Sports Reporter - Darren DeLaune
Feature Writer - Gerald Wofford

The Muscogee Nation News is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Its purpose is to meet any possible need of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to ***The Muscogee Nation News*** unless other copyrights are shown.

Editorial statements appearing in ***The Muscogee Nation News***, guest columns and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of ***The Muscogee Nation News,*** its advisors or the tribal administration and are subject to editorial discretion. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Please contact our office for deadline of submissions to be considered for inclusion. ***The Muscogee Nation News*** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate ***The Muscogee Nation News*** in any regard.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed from Stigler, Okla., to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

To submit a change of address or a letter to the editor, call (918) 732-7720 or send e-mail to: wmurphy@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

MCN District Court hosts 10th annual Continuing Legal Education Seminar

Media Release
MCN District Court

TULSA — The 10th annual Muscogee (Creek) Nation "Doing Business in Indian Country" Continuing Legal Education Seminar will take place May 17-18, 2012.

This year's event will be held at the River Spirit Convention Center located just north of the River Spirit Casino on Riverside Drive in Tulsa, Okla.

The 10th annual CLE will feature renowned Indian law speakers and legal educators discussing a host of hotbed issues affecting Indian Country.

The event will offer ten (10) hours of OBA approved CLE credit which includes one hour of ethics at a bargain price of $200 per registrant.

Registration forms can be accessed online at www.muscogeecreektribalcourt.org. For additional information, contact the Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court at 918-758-1400.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

FILED
2012 MAR 15 AM 12 16
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Person and Estate of K. M. H.,
Minor Child.
Case No. GD-2012-16

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

To: Unknown Father

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for guardianship of the Minor Child in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, GD-2012-__, styled In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Person and Estate of: K.M.H., minor child. The action alleges that the petitioners are entitled to a Final Decree of Guardianship over the minor child based on abandonment.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the Petitioner or appear on the 2nd day of May, 2012, at 9:30 o'clock a. m. or the allegations contained in the *Petition* will be taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in her *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 15th day of March, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District
By: Debbie King
(Deputy)

Approved:

Gregory N. Hope, MCN#641
Shannon L. Prescott, MCN#165
Courtney L. Eagan-Smith, MCN#543
Kurt K. Townsend, MCN#642
MCN Citizen Legal Services
114 N. Grand Ave, North Lobby
Okmulgee, OK 74447
(918) 756-1112 Telephone

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In re the marriage of: EVANS,
CORENTHEA ALYSE EVANS,
Petitioner,
vs.
STEVEN CLARK EVANS,
Respondent.
Case No. DV-2012-18
Before Gregory Bigler
Judge of the District Court

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Steven Clark Evans

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for divorce in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. DV-2012-18, styled In re the Marriage of Corenthea Evans, Petitioner and Steven Clark Evans, Respondent. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to a *Decree of Dissolution of Marriage* from you based on the grounds of incompatibility.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear at the hearing on the 22nd day of May 2012 at 1:30 o'clock p.m. Failure to respond and/or attend will result in the allegations contained in the *Petition* being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in his *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 19th day of April, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District
By: Shalon McLemathan
(Deputy)

(SEAL)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In re the marriage of:
MILLIE HILL,
Petitioner,
vs.
ALVIN HULBUTTA,
Respondent.
Case No. DV-2012-16

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Alvin Hulbutta

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for divorce in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. DV-2012-, styled In re the Marriage of Mille Hill, Petitioner and Alvin Hulbutta, Respondent. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to a *Decree of Dissolution of Marriage* from you based on the grounds of incompatibility.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear at the hearing on the 22nd day of May 2012 at 1:30 o'clock p.m. Failure to respond and/or attend will result in the allegations contained in the *Petition* being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in his *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 23rd day of Feb., 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District
By: Debbie King
(Deputy)

(SEAL)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF:
DIANE COOPER,
Petitioner
vs.
JOHN COOPER,
Respondent.
Case No. DV-2010-120

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: **John Cooper**

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for divorce in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. DV-2010-120, styled In re the Marriage of Diane Cooper, Petitioner and John Cooper, Respondent, *Application for Civil Indirect Contempt*. The action alleges that the Petitioner is entitled to a judgment from you based on the grounds of indirect contempt for the total amount of $75,000.00.

You are notified that you must appear at the hearing on the 24th day of May, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. Failure to attend will result in the allegations contained in the *Application* being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in her *Application*.

Given under my hand and seal this 21st day of March, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk

By: Shalon McLemathan
(Deputy)

(SEAL)

Approved:
Kurt K. Townsend, MCN#642
Shannon L. Prescott, MCN#165
Courtney L. Eagan-Smith, MCN#543
Gregory N. Hope, MCN#641
MCN Citizen Legal Services
114 N. Grand Ave, North Lobby
Okmulgee, OK 74447

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT
FILED
2012 MAR 30 PM 1 57
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

IN THE MATTER OF:
T.T., DOB: 08/25/2006
N.T., DOB: 06-16-01
A.T., DOB: 03-28-03
Alleged Deprived Children.
Case No. CV-2011-158

NOTICE OF HEARING TO:

Wesley Taylor, Natural Father

YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that a Petition to Terminate Parental Rights has been filed against you in the above-styled and numbered cause and will be heard in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the 19th day of June 2012 at 9:30 a.m.

YOU ARE HEREBY INFORMED that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the children remain wards of the Court and custody be continued in the Children and Family Services Administration for continued foster placement of possible pre-adoptive placement. **YOU ARE FUTHER INFORMED** that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.

IF YOU FAIL TO ATTEND THIS HEARING, YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS MAY BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED AND YOU MAY BE CITED FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT AND A BENCH WARRANT MAY BE ISSUED FOR YOUR ARREST.

JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT
FILED
2012 MAR 15 PM 11 19
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

In re the Paternity of KALEB CURTIS HICKS:
KOLEPAH BERRYHILL,
Petitioner,
and
RYAN CURTIS HICKS,
Respondent.
Case No. CV-2011-158
Before Gregory Bigler
Judge of the District Court

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Ryan Curtis Hicks

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for paternity in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. CV-2011-158, styled In re the Paternity of Kaleb Curtis Hicks, Petitioner and Ryan Curtis Hicks, Respondent. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to a *Paternity Determination and Order for Child Support Custody and Visitation* from you.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear at the hearing on the 15th day of May 2012. at 1:30 o'clock p.m. Failure to respond and/or attend will result in the allegations contained in the *Petition* being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in her *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 15th day of March, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District
By: Debbie King
(Deputy)

(SEAL)

CREEK NATION COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Children's Mental Health Awareness Day set for Wednesday May 9, 2012

SAPULPA — Mental, emotional, and behavioral issues are real. They can be very painful, and challenging. These concerns are a source of stress for children and their families, schools, and communities.

The number of children and their families who are affected by mental, emotional, and behavioral challenges is significant. It is estimated that as many as one in five children and adolescents may have a mental health challenge that can be identified and require treatment.

What are the causes of mental illness? Through research, it is becoming clear that many of these conditions are caused by biology, psychological and environment, or a combination.

Families and communities working together can help children, and adolescents with mental health challenges.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Behavioral Health & Substance Abuse program has a range of services to meet the necessary needs of children and their families.

To help support your local community efforts to raise awareness about children's mental health please contact Lindsley Harry, Social Marketing Coordinator at (918) 224-9307. Protecting the Future (CMHI grant) will provide presentations and brochures to promote public education concerning mental health.

New Beginnings Baptist Church Annual Revival

HENRYETTA — New Beginnings Baptist Church will be having their annual revival May 9-12, 2012.

Services will start at 6:30 p.m., nightly with Rev. Ed Bear as the speaker.

Refreshments will be served nightly.

Creek hymn singings every third Thursday in Okmulgee beginning May 17

OKMULGEE — The Okmulgee Elderly Nutrition Center will host monthly Creek hymn singings every third Thursday beginning May 17, 2012 from 7-9 p.m. All are welcome.

For more information, contact Tecumseh Jackson at 918-752-0952.

Benefit co-ed t-ball tournament set for May 19

SEMINOLE — A benefit adult co-ed t-ball tournament is set for May 19 at the Mekusukey Mission Fields in Seminole, Okla.

The deadline for entry is May 15, 2012. Entry fee is $75. T-shirt prizes will be given to first and second place winners. Teams must be 12-man rosters (six men and six women).

For more information, contact Shelia Smith at 405-380-4349, J.B. Smith at 405-637-9985 or James Smith at 405-382-9162.

All proceeds will go towards medical expenses.

Eufaula hosts 5th annual Men's Health Summit

EUFAULA — The Eufaula Indian Health Center will host the 5th annual Men's Health Summit on Wednesday, June 6, 2012 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at the EIC Skate Zone, located at 800 Birkes Rd., in Eufaula.

Lunch will be provided and men are allowed to bring wives and or sisters, however, T-shirts will only be provided for the men. Participants must pre-register and attend the session to receive lunch, T-shirt and enter drawings.

Registration forms may be picked up at the Eufaula Indian Health Clinic or local community center and must be returned no later than May 23, 2012.

Registration will begin at 8 a.m. For more information, please email: Lucas.Taylor@creekhealth.org

Miss Muscogee Scholarship applications due May 18, 2012

OKMULGEE — Muscogee (Creek) ladies (must be full Creek citizen 1/4 Blood or more) between the ages of 14-22 are invited to compete in the 2012 Muss Muscogee Nation Scholarship Pageant.

There will be two divisions of competition for Royalty including Miss Muscogee Nation and Junior Miss Muscogee Nation.

The crowned Miss will receive a total of $4000 in prize and scholarship money and the crowned Junior Miss will receive $1000 in prize money.

Areas of judging include poise/personality, traditional dress, talent, speech/question, personal interview, essay and written test.

Applications can be found online at www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov and must be mailed or hand-delivered by the deadline for applications, 5 p.m., on Friday, May 18, 2012.

For more information, call 918-732-7724 or toll free at 1-800-205-3705.

Spirit of Oklahoma Football Camp set for July 6-7

WELEETKA — The second annual Spirit of Oklahoma Football Camp is set for July 6-7, 2012 at the Weleetka Football Field in Weleetka.

University of Oklahoma Sooner Football great Jamelle Holieway and friends will be conducting the one-day camp for youth ages 8-16.

The camp is geared to host youth within the 35-40 mile radius of Weleetka.

Last year, the camp was host to 106 youth and the numbers are expected to double for 2012.

For more information, contact Sandi Golden 405-786-2635 or 918-623-6437.

Graduate edition deadline set for Friday, May 25

Rebecca Landsberry
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE — The *Muscogee Nation News* will be featuring 2012 Muscogee (Creek) Nation graduates in an upcoming summer edition.

Graduate submissions should include full name of graduate, school, university or technical institution, parents, ceremonial ground, church, tribal town, clan and any awards/accomplishments (150 word limit).

A recent digital photo should also be included with graduate's information, which must be submitted via e-mail no later than Friday, May 25, 2012. Submissions should be sent to gfife@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

For more information, please contact Gary Fife at 918-732-7643.

Southern Regional Offices May calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
(405) 452-1101		1 Tax Commission 9am-3pm Lunch 11am-11:30am	2 National Council 9am-4pm Legal Services (appointment only) Citizenship 10am-3pm Child Support Enforcement 10am-4pm	3	4	5
6	7 Social Services 8am-5pm Employment & Training 8am-12pm Okmulgee 1pm-5pm	8 Tax Commission 9am-3pm Lunch 11am-11:30am	9 National Council 9am-4pm	10	11 WIC@Clinic 9am-4pm	12
13	14 Social Services 8am-5pm Employment & Training 8am-12pm Okmulgee 1pm-5pm	15 Tax Commission 9am-3pm Lunch 11am-11:30am	16 National Council 9am-4pm Legal Services 9am-3pm Child Support Enforcement 10am-4pm	17	18	19
20	21 Social Services 8am-5pm Employment & Training 8am-12pm Okmulgee 1pm-5pm	22 Tax Commission 9am-3pm Lunch 11am-11:30am	23 National Council 9am-4pm	24	25 WIC@Clinic 9am-4pm	26
27	28 **Creek Nation Complex Closed**	29 Tax Commission 9am-3pm Lunch 11am-11:30am	30 National Council 9am-4pm	31	-Employment & Training here daily 8am-5pm (405) 452-1155 -Housing here daily (405) 452-1100/1106 -Reintegration (appointment only) 1-800-259-1059 -Tribal TANF (appointment only) 1-800-483-1979 or (918) 732-7985 -WIC (405) 452-1300	

MUSCOGEE NATION
38th annual Festival 2012

FRI 6 • 8
7:00 p.m. Miss/Jr. Miss Muscogee Nation Pageant

FRI 6 • 15
6:00 p.m. Slow Pitch Softball Tournament

SAT 6 • 16
8:00 a.m. Slow Pitch Softball Tournament
9:00 Adult 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament
11:00 Muscogee Royalty Reception —Council House Museum
7:00 p.m. Creeks Got Talent—Okmulgee High School Auditorium

SUN 6 • 17
8:00 a.m. Slow Pitch Softball Tournament—Finals

THU 6 • 21
Noon Cornstalk Range Open—MCN Complex
7:30 p.m. Stomp Dance—MCN Complex

FRI 6 • 22
8:00 a.m. Golf Tournament—Fountainhead HWY 150, Checotah, OK
Junior Olympics—Harmon Stadium
Senior Citizens Activities—Senior Housing, Polokse Circle
9:00 a.m. Traditional Skills—MCN Complex
10:00 a.m. Children's Fun Fair
5:00 p.m. Arts & Crafts/Food Vendors
6:00 Fast Pitch Softball Tournament
6:00-8:30 INFR Rodeo
9:00 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT TBA

SAT 6 • 23
8:00 a.m. Golf Tournament—Fountainhead 5k Walk/Run
Fast Pitch Softball Tournament
Horseshoe Tournament
9:00 Youth 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament
Children's Corn Stalk Shoot
Volleyball Tournament
INFR Rodeo—SLACK
9:00-Noon Safety Seat Check—MCN Complex
9:30-4:30 Council House Indian Art Festival —Council House Museum
10:00 a.m. Festival Parade, 6th Street
Children's Fun Fair
11:00 Arts & Crafts/Food Vendors
2:00-6:00 p.m. Creek Hymn/Gospel Singing —MCN Complex
3:00 Traditional Corn Stalk Shoot —MCN Complex
6:00-8:30 All-Indian Rodeo Finals
7:00 The TEMPTATIONS
9:00 GLADYS KNIGHT

SUN 6 • 24
8:00 a.m. Fast Pitch Softball Tournament—Finals

All events, unless otherwise noted, will occur at the Claude Cox Omniplex & Bob Arrington Rodeo Arena (behind MCN Travel Plaza/Burger King, NW corner of HWY 75 & SH-56 Loop intersection—Okmulgee, OK)

*ALL DATES AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Awepvks! (ah-wē' buks) Everyone come!
918.732.7992 | tourism@MuscogeeNation-nsn.gov
www.MuscogeeNation-nsn.gov

Tourism & Recreation

All Festival visitors agree that entry into any of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival events constitutes consent for the MCN Tourism & Recreation Department to use any film, photographs, video or reproduction of image and/or voice bearer for any purpose whatsoever without any payment to the visitor. Visitors shall not sell, dispense, or consume any form of illegal drugs or alcoholic beverages during any MCN Festival related events. Pets are not allowed at any MCN Festival related events. Thank you for your cooperation. Mvto!

Mutual benefits felt between Muscogee (Creek) father and his adopted children

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program Coordinator Tony Fish currently has three Muscogee (Creek) children in his home who were adopted as siblings by Fish and his wife.

"Both of us felt at an early age that we wanted to have children of our own, but we also felt like there were a lot of children out there that need good homes, that we could make an impact on somebody else's life through that," said Fish.

Fish pointed out that he and his wife's combined opinion on adoption was actually somewhat coincidental.

"It was always something we always kind of felt, even before we were married. We discovered that about one another once we were married," he said.

The couple decided that they should educate themselves as much as possible before making an actual adoption.

"The only way we knew to go about doing that was to take some classes, you know going through the system taking classes, becoming foster parents, of course we weren't parents yet," said Fish.

Fish and his wife fostered many children before they went on to adopt.

"Approximately 16 children and various stages. Usually they were pretty young children because we were young, up to about the age of 12 or 13," he said.

He described initial education process.

"We felt that being surrogates to some children that absolutely needed somebody to rely on was absolutely rewarding. We liked to see the families reunited, and become a nice productive, and happy family," said Fish.

This reunification process was not without its difficulties, however.

"When you put everything you have into helping these kids you get attached to them. Then it is devastating to the foster families when the kids are reunited because you have a sense of loss," said Fish.

Fish explained how the time he and his wife spent fostering helped prepare them for when they finally were able to adopt.

"It gave us some experience in dealing with different personalities, how to better handle situations and how to address, and understand their needs. They were totally different from what we were expecting initially," he said.

He explained how the couple pushed through the pain they felt by giving up children they had fostered and continued on with their goal.

"Before we decided to adopt, we were called by the Creek Nation, and they had three young kids that were needing foster placement. We didn't have any children in our home at the time, so we kind of prayed about it a little bit, and decided, 'Well, we're kind of ready to take this back on again,' " said Fish.

MNN/*Jason Salsman*
Children of all ages are avilable for fostering and adoption through the Muscogee (Creek) Nation program.

This time the children were able to stay.

"Probably three or four months into the fostering process, things collapsed with the system and the biological parents, at that time; the children came up for adoption. Because we were already foster parents to the children, we got the first option to be able to adopt them. We had spent so much time with them, we had grown to love and care for them deeply and felt that it was a perfect fit for us," said Fish.

The difficulty of fostering children was giving them up, now they faced the unique challenges of adoption.

"We found as we went through this that there were a lot of special needs the children have that we were not aware of. Some of it had to do with the abuse they received when they were younger. Health care was neglected; you have dental problems, hearing problems, and you have a lot of emotional problems that need to be addressed. As they get older they have more questions as to, 'What was wrong with me that would make my parent do that to me," said Fish.

He described how these problems varied by age between the children.

"My oldest one remembered a lot of things that happened back when he was with his biological parents. My younger ones don't remember so much. It has been a little easier transition for my younger ones," Fish said.

Fish explained how he and his wife address these issues.

"I tell them there are a lot of things that we can't help, but what we can help is what our future holds. I tell them to think about kids born naturally to parents; there is not a choice in who you are born to. I told them us, we choose one another. I chose you, and you chose me that is what make us a strong family," he said.

He gave some direct advice to prospective parents on how to further overcome these problems.

"Just be patient, seek all the training you can get, and have understanding. We rely heavily on a higher power. God puts us in places, and situations and we're not going to be given more than we can handle," said Fish.

According to Fish, it is a good idea to have a support system around you including someone you trust to watch your children for a short period.

"There are times where it is going to be very stressful. There are times where you are going to have to make time for yourself. Do something you want to do where you can take a break from things. It gives you time to miss one another," he said.

Like foster care, it may have its difficulties, but adoption has its own rewards just the same.

"You just can't imagine. When they bring home a good report card, when you're sitting in a restaurant and somebody tells you they are the best-behaved kids they've ever seen. When you've got them enrolled in little league baseball or peewee football, and they're making a touchdown. Just the pride of knowing you had a hand in that, and that something that you've done is going to make a difference in this world. It is a reward every day," said Fish.

Fish described how this experience has brought them together as a family.

"I think we get stronger every day. We've learned to rely on, and trust one another. For instance, in the beginning they were afraid to not be around mom and dad because they thought we were going to leave them and not come back. They were real clingy. Now they know they can go somewhere and not worry about not being picked back up or worry that somebody else is going to come pick them up," he said.

He went on by explaining how emotional damage to a child can be passed on to the next generation and every descendent thereafter if no one is able to intervene and stop the negative cycle of abuse.

According to Fish, grounding his children in Creek culture has helped him break this cycle.

"It gives them maybe a sense of belonging. They physically see where they belong. It is easier for them to relate to maybe some of the trials and tribulations that they have. It seems like it is easier for me to understand some of the things that bother them, whereas I may not understand that from another race," he said.

The main purpose of Indian Child Welfare Act is to put native foster and adoption children in native homes. It is this sense of mutual understanding that makes this legislation relevant and effective. Fish gave his own view on the matter.

"I feel that native children need to be adopted by native families because you want to keep that culture in place. You want to keep that language going as much as you can. When you start taking culture and language out, you lose the identity of who they really are," he said.

Fish gave specific examples of Muscogee (Creek) culture and activities he and his children participate in and the lessons these activities teach his children.

"This year will be the first year my son works for the Summer Youth Employment Program through Creek Nation. I'm trying to teach him how important it is to be there early, show up ready for work, and be loyal to the employer."

"During wild onion time when somebody comes around selling wild onions, we'll buy them. This year I felt the need to actually take them out and show them what wild onions were and we dug our own and fixed them, it gave us a greater sense of appreciation for what we had," he said.

Fish gave some final words reiterating the personal rewards of adoption and also how it benefits the nation.

"I believe it strengthens our sovereignty being able to take care of our own, and not relying on anybody else to do that. I believe that we as Creek people have an obligation to step up and take care of our own, and create the best possible outcome for our kids. They are going to be our future leaders, our future council members, chiefs, second chiefs and health care administrators. One day one of those kids may be taking my place, and you want those strong foundational values there, that way they can give back," he said.

MCN Indian Roads Program sets ambitious agenda

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — With the coming of the construction season, the Muscogee (Creek) Indian Roads Program has already been very busy.

They've just completed repairs on a section of Oklahoma Highway 69 from the Summit exit extending to the MacIntosh—Muskogee County Line, a stretch of 10.5 miles, as a first phase of an ambitious road rehabilitation schedule, according to Charley LaSarge, Program Manager of Indian Roads Program/Transit and Transportation. They're getting ready for a second phase, which will extend their work into Checotah. An eight mile stretch of Spaulding Road will also see repairs.

LaSarge said their agenda will focus on church roads, and roads heavily used by Creek Nation employees such as Gun Club Road, running from Highway 75, to Highway 56, to Highway 62 going to Morris.

Resurfacing will also be seen in the tribal complex area. The rough parts of Alligator Road will be patched and get new asphalt. This would ordinarily be a road fix that would not be possible with federal grant money that is earmarked for specific projects. LaSarge explained that the interest accrued from those accounts will be used to pay for these repairs and others in the tribal complex areas. This summer will see the Muscogee Industrial park get some attention also.

The Muscogee Roads program cooperates with local county road agencies on many projects, reducing costs and enhancing the relationships between governments, "Anytime we do a project, we try to work with the counties and let them have some of the work. A lot of times, they'll do a lot of the work that we can't get to," LaSarge noted, then the county will sign an agreement for the maintenance of the road.

Tami O'Brien, Administrative Assistant for the Federal Roads Program offered some financial figures for the summer's work agenda. According to O'Brien, Phase 1 of the Highway 69 project used $1.7 million in federal stimulus funds. Another $1.1 million was used for additional work there. There was a total of $5.5 million made available for use on the Highway 69 and the Gun Club Road projects.

When Creek citizens drive these roads, they're usually not aware of who is doing the roadwork or how much is invested in the repairs. LaSarge added, "A lot of our citizens don't know we're putting this kind of money in these roads. I was at Spaulding, just kind of overlooking the project one day and ran into a couple of Creek elderly people. They were asking what we were doing in [the]Indian Roads program, and when were we going to start using that money for their benefit. I asked them if they travelled that Spaulding Road, and they said, 'Yes, every day.' I said, The Creek Nation is funding that whole project."

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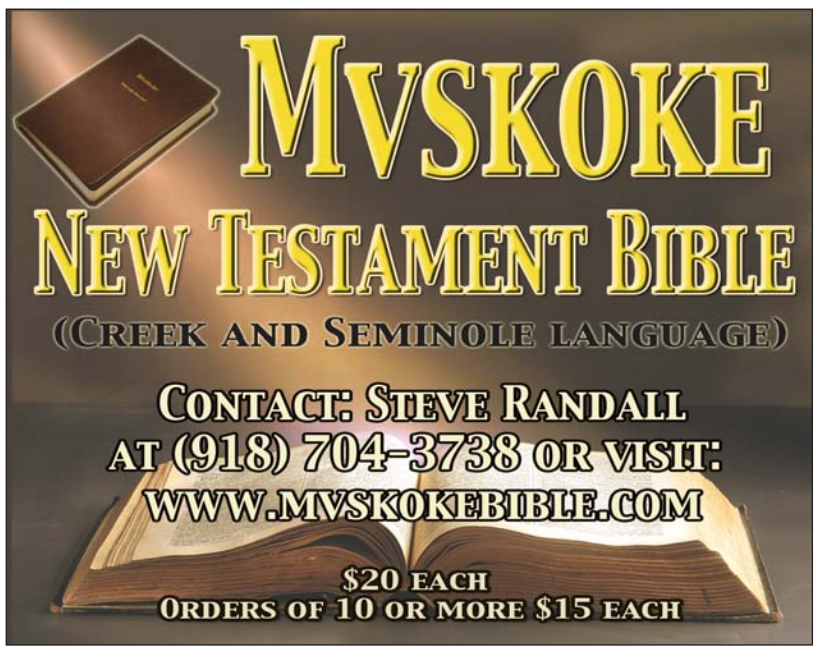
at (918)732-7883 OR email: tammirb@muscogeenation-nsn.gov



Chief Tiger honors elder with Pendleton blanket

MNN/Christina Good Voice

Liz King Johnson celebrated her 90th birthday on Saturday, April 7, 2012. Family and friends gathered in Kansas City to honor her. While unable to attend the celebration, Principal Chief George Tiger recognized Johnson as a Muscogee (Creek) elder with a Pendleton blanket and certificate of recognition from the tribe.

Johnson, a member of the Turtle Clan, grew up in Hitchita, Okla. The daughter of Hully King and Alice McNac King, she attended Grave Creek Church. The event was hosted by her four children, Ron and Wayne Johnson, Gerri Pulaski and Gwen LaDeaux.

Muscogee (Creek) men strut in heels to help women walk tall against sexual assault

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program hosted the Fourth Annual Sexual Assault Awareness Walk April 11, 2012.

The event began with a presentation at the Mound Building. Attendees gathered outside for 'Walk a Mile in Her Shoes,' which involves men wearing women's shoes and walking through a portion of the Muscogee (Creek) tribal complex to raise awareness about sexual assault.

Several public service announcements concerning sexual assault were shown at the presentation. After the first PSA, Family Violence Prevention Coordinator Shawn Partridge explained the timeliness of this announcement.

"Ryan Red Corn worked with the Indian Law Resource Center to create that just in time to help educate senators and people in Washington about the need to pass the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). It is a really critical time right now because the Senate is supposed to come back into session next week and will be looking at passing that legislation," said Partridge.

The VAWA originally passed in 1994, and is up for its third reauthorization in Congress this year. This reauthorization includes a provision allowing prosecution by tribal courts of non-native-on-native domestic violence that occurs within reservation boundaries. Currently, federal prosecutors have the authority to prosecute such cases, but often do not. The complex nature of such proceedings due to jurisdictional issues and the misdemeanor status of many of these offenses are among the common reasons cited for this.

A proclamation by Principal Chief George Tiger was read at the presentation, declaring April Sexual Assault Awareness Month. This proclamation also listed some of the shocking statistics on sexual violence against native women.

"American native women are twice as likely to experience sexual assault crime compared to all other races, and one in three Indian women report having been raped during their lifetime," the proclamation said.

College of the Muscogee Nation Language Instructor Norma Marshall spoke at the presentation as well.

"We gather today to honor our women and our children. For those of you as men who come and support all of us women, we thank you. My purpose for being here is to empower you as women. Your ancestry comes through your mother's side of the family. That is why Muscogee people hold that in such high regard. Women are important to the Muscogee way of life," said Marshall.

During her speech, Marshall asked the women in attendance to rise and tell other women around them that they were beautiful in the Mvskoke language.

In an interview during the awareness walk, Partridge shared some of her feelings about the event.

"We're so excited, just the participants we have out here reinforces and encourages us in the work that we're doing in providing education and awareness about sexual assault. We want people, first of all, to know that we're here to provide services, support to women that have been sexually assaulted, and to be supportive when they are assaulted, so they can feel comfortable in coming forward and getting the support and services they need," said Partridge.

Partridge continued by commenting on the purpose of the event.

"It is great way to get our men and our women out here saying, 'We don't condone this, and we're going to do something about it,' " she said.

MNN/Sterling Cosper

Men and women took the first step in banishing sexual violence against women by raising awareness of this issue during the "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" event April 11, 2012 at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Capitol Complex in Okmulgee. Pictured above are (from left to right): Chris Azbell, Justin Giles, Mona "KoKo" Lowe and Jeremy Tecumseh.

Housing holds first Home Buyer Education Class

Media Release
MCN Housing Division

OKMULGEE — The Housing Development Department held its' first First-time Homebuyer Education class Saturday March 24th at the Housing building conference room.

The Homebuyer Class featured guest speakers knowledgeable in the various aspects of buying a first home. From credit and loans to finding the right house and finalizing the deal.

The class was well attended with 20 enrolled participants and 10 staff and support people.

The class is a requirement for all applicants wishing to participate in the Mortgage Assistance and Closing Cost Program although some of the participants attended the class only to become more knowledgeable about buying a home.

Housing will hold it's next class May 19 (see ad below).

For more information contact Ladonna Northcross at 918-549-2554.

MORTGAGE DOWN PAYMENT & CLOSING COST PROGRAM

FIRST TIME HOMEBUYER EDUCATION CLASS

Because many Native American families find it difficult or overwhelming to purchase their first home The Mortgage Down Payment and Closing Cost Program is offering a first time homebuyer education class which will help prepare our Native American families for the road to homeownership.

The Homebuyer Class will feature guest speakers knowledgeable in the various aspects of buying a home. From credit and loans to finding the right house and finalizing the deal.

MAP PROGRAM	LaDonna Northcross Housing Development
BUDGETING/TAKING CONTROL OF YOUR MONEY	Mary Thomas OCCS
LOAN PROCESS	Stephanie Mercer BancFirst
SHOPPING FOR A HOME	Brenda Smolen McGraw Realtors
ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS	Mr. James Williams MCN Environmental Dept.
AMERIND INSURANCE	Lenora McPerryman AMERIND Risk Services
CLOSINGS PROCESS	Debbie Haynes OLT Real Estate Closing

May 19, 2012, 8:00 a.m.
Housing Division 1st floor Conf. Rm.

Muscogee (Creek) Wind Runners Emergency Response Team receives training

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE — Wind Runners, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's emergency response team, recently attended a four-day session for search and rescue training.

Starting March 29, 2012, the members of Wind Runners received training from certified National Association of Search and Rescue (NASAR) instructor and Muscogee (Creek) citizen, Joe Phillips.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Emergency Team member and program manager James Nichols explained the program in greater detail.

"We're doing a 40-hour class; first two days being inside class room training, the last two days being outside. We're also going to be having a skills test that we will do in Norman, which is outside performing all the skills that we're learning over these next four days," he said.

According to Nichols, 25 members of the MCN Emergency Response Team will be going through the class.

"We're just trying to give us some more tools to put in our toolbox so that we can help the citizens, not only of Creek Nation but throughout the state of Oklahoma," Nichols said.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation employee and Wind Runners team member Del Beaver expressed his feelings on the training.

"It's good experience and it's fun. We get to help our own tribal members out. The main thing is, you are part of a team, and you are really helping out our community. I think that is the most important part. You get a sense of accomplishment," he said.

During their first day of training, Beaver expressed how useful he believes the training will be.

"We went on a search and rescue last year without having this training, and there were some things that we could have applied to that search and rescue. There are some things I learned this morning that I could have used in previous search and rescues," he said.

Nichols gave another reason why this training is needed.

"Oklahoma is ranked sixth in the United States for having the most disasters, so it's going to happen. We're going to be prepared and ready," he said.

MNN/Sterling Cosper

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Emergency Response Manager and team member Jason Nichols searches for scraps of clothing evidence during a field sweep test in April.

Council House Museum prepares to host art festival

Gerald Wofford
MNN Feature Writer

OKMULGEE — Clint Sago hit the ground running when he accepted the job as Curator of the Creek Council House Museum in March 2012. Sago, who is from Tulsa, knew the Museum's jewel event was right around the corner on the calendar map.

The preservation of Native American art and the tradition of teaching it are nothing new to Sago, who may have been born in Tulsa but claims Hectorville as his family community. Sago earned a Masters of Arts Degree in Social Studies Education from the University of Arkansas-Fayetville. He has worked for the National Parks Service at the Fort Smith's National Historic Site and Museum.

That event is the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival, which takes place throughout the month of June. The museum's events are part of the festival, which will showcase the 2012 Indian Art Festival. This year's festival will certainly live up to its billing, as it has in past festivals bringing the greatest and latest in Native American art and the artists that create them.

"The Festival is proud to be part of the Muscogee Nation Festival," said Sago.

"This year will be exciting, the festival will feature a juried art competition, exhibits, living history presentations, demonstrations, storytelling, food, a children's art area, and Native American artists selling their art on the museum lawn," he said.

This year's categories are: painting/graphics, (includes acrylic, oil, watercolor, tempera, gouache, casein, pencil, pen and pastel drawings, serigraph, lithograph, woodblock, paper casting, print, etching, or mixed media), sculpture, fired wares, basketry and a new category, photography.

The deadline for artists to enter their work is May 25. The art festival kicks off the month of June with the artist reception, silent auction, and the awards presentation on June 1, 2012. The art show opens June 5 and will culminate with the Muscogee (Creek) Festival, which will hold a parade in downtown Okmulgee Saturday, June 23.

The festivities on Saturday will also include various artist displays and artwork for sale on the grounds of the museum. This year's featured artist will be Muscogee- Seminole artist Bill McCulley.

Sago hopes that this year's festival will help the Muscogee (Creek) Nation in many ways, "I hope to help educate, preserve Creek culture and history for future generations."

The Creek Council House Museum is open Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. For more information about the Indian Art Festival, contact the Creek Council House Museum at (918) 756-2324.

MNN/Gerald Wofford
Curator of the Creek Council House Clint Sago is busy preparing for the upcoming art festival which kicks off June 1 with an awards presentation.

Ocmulgee to Okmulgee: Muscogee (Creek) Nation Trail of Tears Bicycle Tour Scheduled for June

Media Release
MCN Museum, Cultural Center & Archives

OKMULGEE — Three words, "Ocmulgee to Okmulgee" pack an encyclopedia of history for the Muscogee people and make an appropriate name for the commemorative bicycle tour taking place in June.

The staff members of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Museum, Cultural Center, & Archives, Program Manager/Museum Director and Curator John Beaver and Asst. Director Justin Bruce Giles are spearheading the event through collaboration with many agencies including: the National Park Service; the Alabama Historical Commission; the Historic Chattahoochee Commission; Fort Gibson Historic Site; Let's Move!; Americans for Indian Opportunity; and the National Museum of the American Indian.

Beaver will be the lead rider in the Ocmulgee to Okmulgee: Muscogee (Creek) Nation Trail of Tears Bicycle Tour as he visits sites from the well known to those off the beaten path to present the history and stories of Muscogee culture in the Southeast.

Giles will be manning the mobile support vehicle and documenting the ride as they traverse the Trail of Tears. Together, they will present a "living classroom" experience that will be shared in online blogs, a website that will host information about all of the sites visited during the project, and later in the museum.

The tour will commence June 2 at the Ocmulgee Mounds in Macon, Ga., and will conclude the weekend of June 23 at the 2012 Muscogee Festival in Okmulgee, Okla.

Some of the sites to be visited, such as the Ocmulgee Mounds near Macon, Ga., tie into ancient Mvskoke history – before the Muscogee became entwined with the British, the Spanish, the French… and eventually the United States.

The project team will also visit original tvlwv (town) sites and battle sites. One goal is to pay homage to and recognize our ancestors who made the difficult journey of removal. Fort Mitchell is on the tour as a beginning point of the forced removals to Indian Territory.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizens and the public are invited to join in the bicycle tour or to make the journey by automobile, following the itinerary and maps.

From the Ocmulgee Mounds, the tour will progress from Georgia to Alabama, heading west to Fort Mitchell across portions of the Old Federal Road, before continuing west to Montgomery, Fort Toulouse and Horseshoe Bend. The route will then move into Tennessee and take old military routes through Arkansas, arriving at Fort Gibson as the western terminal of the forced march.

Event planning has built many inter-agency relationship bridges that Beaver and Giles believe will lead to a Muscogee presence and perspective previously lacking in the history and commentary surrounding our ancestral homelands, the removal process, and the continuity of our ancient Muscogee culture within our current day environment. This can benefit our own people as well as the general public.

"Telling our stories" has already been identified as one of the primary goals of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Museum, so it seems very appropriate for the museum staff to be making this journey.

"Stories can be shared in many ways," explains Beaver, "but we want to show our people and others that a museum can be about learning history through activity."

Giles shares that philosophy and adds, "A museum is a place to come and do things."

Removal is, sadly, one of the pre-eminent stories of the Muscogee people. While the Muscogee people know the hardships of that trek, it is a story frequently omitted from mainstream history and media.

Less than 200 years after Removal, we have elders living among us who were born a mere 100 years after their great grandparents arrived in Indian Territory and began rebuilding.

The project team has included Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tourism and Recreation to assist with community involvement, Veterans Affairs, and the Division of Health, which is promoting the healthy eating and fitness aspect of the bike tour.

The tour project will be part of Let's Move! In Indian Country and Let's Move! Museums as a fitness initiative and is meant to heighten awareness and promote a lifestyle that can help reduce the number of new cases of heart disease, diabetes, and childhood obesity within the Native American community.

Anyone wanting to follow the tour as it progresses can do so on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation website, the Museum website, http://www.muscogeenationmuseum.org/ and the Facebook page for the Museum.

Additional information will be added at these sites post-ride.

Confirmed Tour Stops:

June 2 – Ocmulgee Mounds, Macon, Ga.

June 3 – Fort Mitchell, Alabama

June 9 – Fort Toulouse, Alabama

June 11 – Horseshoe Bend, Alabama

June 22 – Fort Gibson Historic Site, Oklahoma

June 23 – Okmulgee, Oklahoma

For more information contact John Beaver at 918-549-2428 or email: jbeaver@muscogeenation-nsn.gov or Justin Bruce Giles at 918-549-2429 or email: jgiles@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

Cancer Care Community Education offered in Eufaula through May

Media Release
MCN Division of Health

EUFAULA — The Native Navigators will host cancer continuum sessions at the Eufaula Indian Community Center (Skate Zone) beginning April 9, 2012 with a family fun event.

The 12 educational workshops will continue through May 31. Sessions will be held every Monday and Thursday for six weeks.

NNACC has completed two workshop sessions, Okmulgee and Holdenville areas, with a great response.

Okmulgee had a total of 203 participants with an average attendance of 60 per session.

Holdenville had a total of 68 participants with an average of 40 per session.

The navigators are Loretta Denny (918) 441-6049 and Patricia Coachman (918) 441-6048, office (918) 758-2710. Debra Isham is the project manager.

Everyone 18 years or older will receive a $10 gift card after each session for participation.

Location: Eufaula Indian Community Center (Skating Ring) 800 Birks Rd., Eufaula

Dates: April 9 – June 4, 2012

Time: 6 – 8 p.m.

Early Detection:

Thursday, May 3– Get on the Path to Breast Health

Monday, May 7 – Get on the Path to Colon Health

Thursday, May 10 – Get on the Path to Lung Health

Monday, May 14 – Get on the Path to Cervix Health

Thursday, May 17 - Get on the Path to Prostate Health

Survivorship:

Monday, May 21 – Side Effects

Thursday, May 31– Survivors' Support Circles

Comfort/Palliative Care

Monday, June 4 – Wills & Advance Directive

River

Continued from Page 1

The suggestion of an outlet mall was raised, however, all possibilities are being considered, according to Tiger.

"We feel like it is unlimited, what we can do with this property . . . We're going to look at using all resources, not just our own resources to make sure that we can be successful with this property," he said.

Tiger said the tribe's working relationship with the local governments will sustain.

"We've been good neighbors . . . I can assure you that many of the communities that we have been able to help in many ways in terms of education, fire departments . . . law enforcement and police departments, that will continue," he said.

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VASO / Smithsonian exhibit extended through July 6, 2012

Media Release
MCN Museum & Cultural Center

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Museum & Cultural Center announced extended dates for the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) Native Words, Native Warriors exhibition. The exhibition will be on display in the Veterans' Building located on the MCN Complex through July 6, 2012. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

Native Words, Native Warriors honors Native American soldiers who developed coded messages using their Native languages in WWI and WWII. While the Code Talkers' messages were never deciphered and provided an invaluable weapon on the battlefield, their contributions were not recognized until the U.S. government declassified the Navajo and Comanche code talker programs decades after WWII. The exhibition also showcases other tribes that participated in the code talker program such as the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Assiniboine, Cherokee, Choctaw, Cree, Crow, Dakota, Lakota, Kiowa, Oneida, Pawnee, and Seminole.

The Smithsonian NMAI and the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Services (SITES), with generous support of Elizabeth Hunter Solomon, produced the exhibition. Additional support has been provided by the Smithsonian's Women's Committee and the AMB Foundation.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Museum & Cultural Center and the Muscogee Veterans Affairs Services Office (VASO) have also developed a supplemental multi-banner display, which further honors our own Muscogee (Creek) warriors and their service in the U.S. military. These banners showcase Muscogee (Creek) soldiers who have served, and continue to serve, in every branch of the military throughout every American war and conflict to date.

For visitors who have already seen the exhibit, VASO has added additional banner displays and erected two new memorial statues recognizing our "Fallen Soldiers" and "Prisoners of War." VASO is a venue that compliments the Native Words, Native Warriors exhibition as it is dedicated to telling the history and stories of our Muscogee (Creek) veterans. VASO houses display cases with military memorabilia, photographs, medals and other objects donated or loaned by the friends and families of Muscogee (Creek) veterans.

The Native Words, Native Warriors exhibition is open from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Additional operational hours have been added to view the exhibition on the following Saturdays:

- May 19, 2012 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- June 23, 2012 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

All adult and School groups are invited and encouraged to come visit the FREE exhibition. For more information please call VASO: (918) 732-7744.

Native Words, Native Warriors website: http://nmai.si.edu/education/codetalkers/

Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian: http://nmai.si.edu/home/

STAND AND DEFEND:
MUSCOGEE WOMEN IN UNIFORM
Lora P. Bowden
WAAC
WW II
Anna King
U.S. Army
Korea
Tsiannina Hounarmand
U.S. Army
Vietnam
Betty D. Prince
U.S. Marine Corps
Korea
Maggie Parks
U.S. Navy
Global War On Terrorism
Nancy M. Starr
U.S. Army
Cold War
(Left to Right)
Carol Muniz
U.S. Air Force
Cold War
June Mustari
U.S. Air Force
Vietnam
Paula Willits
U.S. Navy
Vietnam
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MVSKOKE SULETAWVLKE ESTOFIS EKVNV HOMVN SAPAKLEARES
Silent pride and steadfast dedication to duty are hallmarks of Muscogee women in service of our Country since WW II.
Not being subject to the draft, we have to this day voluntarily enlisted and proudly served in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines because it is our heritage to go forward and defend in tumultuous times. One of our Muscogee women was awarded the coveted Combat Medical Badge for her heroic frontline combat duty in the Iraq War. Muscogee women overcame harassment of all types and remained stalwart in performance.
We always have and we always will stand and defend with our Muscogee Brothers in service of our Land.
MVSKOKE HOKTVKE
SVPAKLET TAWETAKARES
(Pictured Above)
Mamie H. Kanard
WAAC
WW II
Smithsonian
National Museum of the American Indian

Native Words, Native Warriors was produced by the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES).
The exhibition was made possible in part thanks to to the generous support of Elizabeth Hunter Solomon. Additional support has been provided by the Smithsonian Womens committee and AMB Foundation.

Emvponayv

Gary Fife
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE — Hey, the Museum of the American Indian in Oklahoma City may get built after all. Maybe.

The Museum needs some financial help, and OKC's talking about putting up millions, but the catch is the State will have to kick in some cash, too.

The Oklahoma City Council approved $9 million of the $80 million needed to finish the $170 million museum if the state kicks in. Now a proposal to add more state funding is in the works. It may not be all that easy. Gov. Mary Fallin has asked an audit as one of the conditions she and some lawmakers agreed to before additional bond money would be considered to complete the museum. The agreement also calls for a completion plan and moving it to the Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation.

So, the folks working at the museum will have to come up with proof of what they're been doing all these years with all those bucks. There is a skeleton of a building actually constructed, but it lacks a roof.

Some lawmakers have been critical of providing more state funding for a project that already has received three bond issues totaling $67.4 million. Construction began in 2006 but was halted last year when the Legislature didn't approve a request for additional funding.

The magazine Scientific American questions regulations of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. The magazine says the rules "allow tribes to claim even those remains whose affiliation cannot be established scientifically, as long as they were found on or near the tribes' aboriginal lands."

Scientific American argues that NAGPRA rules are too favorable to American Indian communities and that archaeologists should be having a greater say in these matters.

How 'bout if we dug up the bones of their grandmothers?

An Oklahoma bill that would cut tribes out of environmental policy making processes appears dead.

A House committee chairman refused to bring it up for a hearing. Relations between the state and tribal governments are already rough. The bill would have aggravated more tribes by making them go through a state agency to develop policy affecting their own environment.

The bill's author said his measure would not have prohibited the tribes from taking part in environmental policies, but it would have allowed for consultation but not take tribal laws into consideration.

Sort of like: "You could speak up but we're going to ignore you."

Were you a fan of Indian professional wrestlers? Joe Scarpa, one of the best-known professional wrestlers of the 1970s and '80s as Chief Jay Strongbow, died recently. His age was variously listed as 79 or 83. Scarpa put on his feathered headdress in 1970 and become one of many wrestlers who performed as ethnic caricatures.

Hate to burst any bubbles, but Scarpa, was actually an Italian-American (just like the Italian guy, Iron Eyes Cody, who faked an entire movie career as an Indian). Strongbow did get a lot of little guys (like me) rooting for him and his "Tomahawk Chop."

I once met the real Indian wrestler, Wahoo McDaniels —nice guy, but his bosses would never let him win his own championship belt.

Spring is here and so are the softball tournaments. Lots of Indians will spend time and energy playing and watching games, all over Creek country. How many of you over-the-hill athletes are going to end up paying physically for trying to reclaim past glories? Ah, how we all get older, but it beats the alternative. (Huh? Not being around to get older.)

Creek-Seminole pastor celebrates service to tribes

Gerald Wofford
MNN Feature Writer

SEMINOLE — For Pastor Redmond Wolf, 'staying the course' has always been his primary philosophy. The 87-year-old Muscogee (Creek) and Seminole preacher entered the ministry with an emphasis of serving Native Americans and making sure they know they are cared for and loved.

As a child, Wolf experienced the boarding school life that many Indian kids his age lived. At Bacone, Wolf played football and took up boxing. School was barely over when Wolf answered the call to military duty as World War II involved the United States in December 1941.

Before leaving for the U.S. Army and a war that would not guarantee his return, Wolf visited his home community of Little River near Seminole, Okla., and see his sweetheart, Lizzie Tiger. Wolf told his young love, "If you don't want to wait for me, I will understand."

Without a second thought, Lizzie told him she would be here for him when he returned. Wolf saw combat in war-torn Europe and Africa before re-enlisting for another four years and eventually returning to civilian life in 1949.

Wolf, like so many of his Native contemporaries, found difficulties after his military service and took advantage of the 'Indian Relocation Program,' which offered employment opportunities to many young Native Americans on the west coast. This unique program landed him, Lizzie and family in Los Angeles, Calif., to begin a new life.

Removed from his culture, community, way of life, and the exposure to a different world began to take its toll on Wolf and Lizzie in different areas of their life. So much so that they began to neglect their children and even turned to alcohol to give themselves some type of relief from a world and city that they just didn't know too much about.

Salaries earned on the job were scarcely used for the children at all and eventually their kids even went hungry.

Wolf recalls being at the apartment one night while his wife worked a late shift. The children were to stay in another room while Wolf drank alone in front of the television. All of the sudden, his son Redmond, Jr., began to talk to him. The words the two-year-old said to his father pointed to Wolf needing to "change his life."

MNN/Gerald Wofford
Pastor Redmond Wolf of Seminole's Little River Mission celebrates his 88th birthday May 5, 2012.

Realizing that his child's comments were more mature than what he could speak, Wolf took the words as divine influence and knew he and as his wife's lives would have to change. Wolf also testified that later that evening an "angel of God" would tell him that his life was meant to serve and bring men to a better understanding of the Lord.

Wolf leaves no doubt that the experiences completely changed his life.

"I waited for my wife to come home from work that evening," says Wolf, "When she did, she told me wanted to start going to church too."

From that moment on, Wolf says that the desire to drink and the abusive life he was giving his children was completely gone. Wolf and his wife found a local church whose congregation was predominately Native American. The young family felt comfortable there and begin to grow in a spiritual manner.

Eventually, Wolf and his family returned to Oklahoma to be closer to their families. Wolf knew that he wasn't just moving back to be closer to his family, but to share "God's Word" with everyone. He was now a licensed minister and the call would lead him to several areas to share the Bible. Wolf pastored several Native American churches throughout Oklahoma, predominately in the western part of the state.

During this time, Wolf saw his family change as well. The conservative, hard-working views of the 1940s and 1950s gave way to the liberal and exploring philosophy of the 1960s and 1970s. For Native Americans, the American Indian Movement (AIM) began to influence many young Indians that were searching for answers to hard line questions about the government's mistreatment of tribes as well the heart felt dissolution of any authority, including churches.

Even Redmond, Jr., met with AIM leaders during this time and began to feel that his father's work, as well as Indians even attending church, was all useless.

"I was so angry about what my Dad was doing," said Wolf, Jr., "that I told him that I was going to burn the church completely down."

The son's rage and harsh decisions eventually led him to make unfortunate choices in other areas of his life as well as time in prison.

"It was when I realized that I was alone and there was no help, that I did remember all the times my Dad telling about how God would never abandon me."

It was at this dark time that Wolf, Jr., decided to give his father's God a try. The son said he began to notice a great change in his life and soon he was released from prison, and in his words, spiritually as well. Today, the younger Wolf helps his father in the church and handles ministry duties as well. Younger sister Charlotte is also active as well other members of the family. The senior pastor is happy to see his family changed in such a positive way and readily admits to witnessing so many other Native American lives changed as well.

The pastoral life of Redmond Wolf has been an interesting one. On May 5, 2012, the Church at Little River Indian Community near Seminole will take time to celebrate his 88th birthday as well as his 53 years in the ministry.

29 MAY
2012
10:00AM

All Muscogee (Creek) citizens are encouraged to attend our tribe's dedication of the Prisoner Of War statue located at the Veterans building, Muscogee (Creek) Nation complex in Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

Guests Of Honor:
Phillip W. Coon - U.S. Army
Bataan Death March Survivor - WWII

Vernon L. Wright - U.S. Air Force
Shot down over Korea - Korean War
(our remaining 2 living Muscogee POW's)

For more information call:
918-732-7744

FORCED TO CAPITULATE BY COMMAND
OR SHOT OUT OF THE SKY:
MUSCOGEE WARRIORS REMAINED DEFIANT
- AS PRISONERS OF WAR -

Coming and Going in Indian Country

by Joy Harjo

This morning I am wrestling with whether or not to continue to do this column. I am taking off on another one-week tour in a few days, which will include performing music and speaking. I have rehearsals, writing, and other business. I have been running my own business since 1992 and could do a workshop on being an independent, small business owner, especially in a world in which there are relatively few native women doing so, and in areas that even fewer native women emerge: poetry, saxophone, music, writing and performing. There's lots of organization involved and I work long hours. There are dry periods when I question what I am doing and why, because nothing is coming back and I get turned down for grants, projects or gigs. And then other times something surprises me. I squeeze through with the usual ups and downs we all deal with in this world. This "job" is teaching me discipline, budgeting, networking, where to find inspiration and how to give it back. And giving back is the key, an important part of the process, and is why I took on the column.

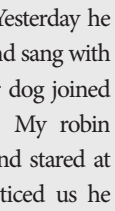
No matter where I have gone or travel to in this world, from Aotearoa (or, New Zealand) to Nome, Alaska, I meet Mvskoke people, or those with strong connections to us. With this column I want to share what I am discovering out in a world of indigenous peoples. Many other nations have similar stories, problems and achievements that we can be inspired by, maybe find another way if a current one is not working. I always think of the now classic story of Alkali Lake in Canada, where one child said no more, in a native community in which everyone suffered from alcoholism (f one family member is alcoholic, we all suffer from it). The whole town turned toward a path of healing because of the bright and insistent spirit of this child. Of course the transformation wasn't quick and easy and it's ongoing. What do you do with a history of abuse from Indian schools, church and invading government? We still carry the memory of removal within us. What do we do with it?

It is the animals who always bring me back to the truth of the matter of our existence here. They inspire and teach us. Recently I was on my way to Rosemary McCombs Maxey's place in Dustin for a language lesson. I had to stop and admire the shiny, new little calves running about in the field nearby. Their mothers looked on and came to the conclusion I wouldn't be any trouble. The happiness from that moment fed my spirit all day.

I like to go outside early in the morning. One of the robins who lives here always sings with me when I play the flute. Yesterday he perched on the fence and sang with me. Then the neighbor dog joined our song by howling. My robin friend and I stopped and stared at the dog. When he noticed us he stopped, and looked "sheepish", if a dog can look sheepish!

When we had that massive tornado warning last week, and the strange air, I decided that I would watch the animals and birds to know what to do. If they grew quiet and disappeared, I was going to crawl in my bathtub and pull couch cushions over me.

Wherever I go, where any of us go, we may be the only Mvskoke person that another person, community, or animal, plant or land, water or sky spirit may ever meet. I figure that someone is always watching, no matter where we go or where we are—and it is best that we observe ourselves, and act with kindness, honesty, being absolutely our unique selves, always doing the best we can no matter what story we find ourselves in.



Mvto.

And Still the Waters Run: *Jackson Barnett*

George Windes
CMCA Historian

MNN/Sterling Cosper
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger addressed media at a press conference in Jenks Wednesday, April 18, 2012 where he answered questions regarding the purchase of Riverwalk Crossing for $11.5 million.

YORBA LINDA, Calif., — In the 1920's and 30's, he was well known fixture (perhaps icon) in Los Angeles.

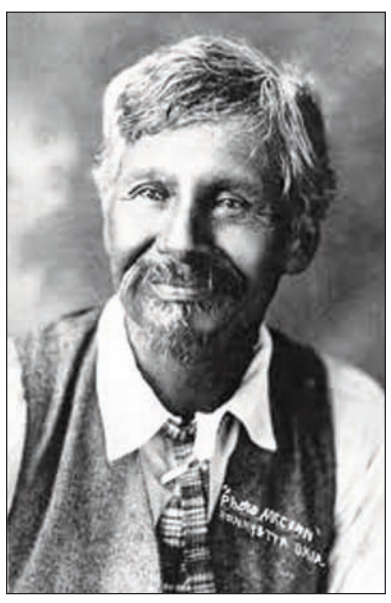
My dad, who would marry a beautiful Muscogee Creek lady in 1939, often spoke of being waved at by an "elderly old man" in front of a mansion on Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles. He identified him as Jackson Barnett, a Muscogee Creek man who dad said was, "the world's richest Indian."

Jackson began life in 1841, the son of Siah Barnett and Thlesothie (Betty) Connor.

His mother was the daughter of an Irishman (his only white ancestor) and a Creek mother. It was a mere decade after "the Indian removal," when the Muscogee Creek Nation was driven from their ancient tribal lands to a vast region west of Arkansas (and across the Mississippi River), known as the "Great American Desert." It would subsequently be called Indian Territory.

Jackson's mother died early on. His father married Mary Barnett and they had four children, David, Marie, Hannah and Ellen, all half siblings to Jackson. They became important "pawns in the chest game," when Jackson's twenty million dollar fortune was placed in probate after his death at the advanced age of 92 in 1934. Eventually 800 heirs (including "three wives") came forth with claims to the same. The legal battle for his estate lasted some fifteen years.

So how did Jackson Barnett become so incredibly wealthy? It was the time of the allotment of Creek lands by the Dawes Commission. An important political entity within the MCN was called Snake Creeks. They rejected an allotment, maintaining that US treaties read said the land was not to be divided, but held in commonality for the Creek people forever. Jackson was not technical a Snake Creek, but he was uneducated. The Dawes people often decided they were more capable of choosing an appropriate allotment than a Native person was. Often though, an unsuspecting citizen was given terrible land, rock-ribbed, that no one else wanted. Such was the case with Jackson. What those authorities didn't know was that one of richest oil pools on the planet lay beneath those rocks. It would be years though before the truth was discovered.



In the meantime Jackson lived a quiet simple life in his log cabin near Henryetta.

Unmarried, he followed the delights of many single Creek men. His days were filled with hunting and fishing and probably stopping in at relatives around dinnertime.

My great grandmother had two such brothers (Lamar and Marot), who lived such lives and were still loved and respected by family and neighborhood.

Eventually the oil discovery was made around 1912 and Jackson Barnett's name was flashed around the country, especially in oil circles. The US media was far less than kind. He was spoken of as illiterate, lazy, unkept, even an ignorant man. His innate "Muscogee-ness," which included our unique Native culture, language, his survival skills, etc., went unmentioned. Perhaps it is true that Jackson never fully understood his total wealth. However I feel he lived each new day with cheerful acceptance for his good fortune, probably reflected opt-times in Creek humor. Was he taken advantage of? Yes, but not so much by his own people, as by the strangers who suddenly appeared in his life. It is perhaps poetic justice that none of the three "wives" benefitted from his estate. Instead it went (what was left of it), to his half siblings, nephews, nieces and cousins, those who knew him best.

The California chapter of his life is most interesting. The wife of his old age spirited him out of Oklahoma for legal considerations in 1922. He would live in Los Angeles until his death on May 29, 1934. The mansion they purchased was on the Wilshire Boulevard very near the mansion of J. Paul Getty, who was the world's richest man. (My own family has a shirttail connection to Getty). Just as my father suggested, Mr. Barnett had a daily route wherein he would dress nicely (a three piece suit), and stand in front of the mansion on the northeast corner of Wilshire and Rossmore Avenue and "direct traffic… some said as a hobby." Jackson became a living monument to Los Angeles, often talked about in the LA Times, and folks drove by to greet him, wave and honk. He was basking in bright California sunshine, with palm trees along his grand street and the ocean but a few miles away…

When Jackson Barnett died at home at the age of 92, there was much to due about where his burial would take place. Eventually his wife won out though and he was interred at the famed Hollywood Cemetery (now called the Hollywood Forever Cemetery. It is located on Santa Monica Blvd., in Los Angeles. Hundreds of famed Angelinos are buried there, including Marilyn Monroe, Rudolph Valentino (the "woman in black" brings flowers to his grave on the anniversary of his death each year), Cecil B. DeMille, Jayne Mansfield, Douglas Fairbanks, Johnny Ramone, etc. The list goes on.

Famed author Annie Debo reflected about Mr. Barnett in her most appreciated book, And Still the Waters Run. She saw him as a kindly Native man roaming the woods about his hut when the oil broke from a wild gusher on his allotment land and flowed down his creek…"

Mvto Jackson for becoming a Creek legend, you are remembered…

Windes has been an active member of the California Muscogee Creek Association for over a decade and is serving on the Board as historian. He may be reached at: georgewindes@gmail.com

Creek ballplayer part of World Championship Team

Gerald Wofford
MNN Feature Writer

PHOENIX — Ella 'Calamie' Bailey has done it again. This veteran athlete firecracker who makes her home in Mesa, Arizona continues to prove the age-old adage, "You're only as old as you feel."

Bailey, who is Muscogee (Creek) and grew up in Oklahoma, recently helped her softball team, the 'Queen Bees,' win the Senior Softball World Championship in Phoenix.

Bailey is 64, and plays with the Bees, which are made up of women softball players between the ages of 50 and 70.

The teams finds it common to pick up medals or 'hardware' from other tournaments, including the World Senior Games held in St. George, Utah, which qualified the Bees to compete in Phoenix. The Bees also captured first in the Winter Classic in Manifae, Calif., the Palm Springs Sports Festival, Sun City Bosom Buddies Tournament, Arizona Senior Olympics and second place in the SPA Nationals in Tennessee.

Sports have always been one of Bailey's passions. The Creek Lady began with the bat and glove at an early age. Bailey also picked up a basketball, found success on the court and has been a part of teams that have won national tournaments as well.

Manager of the 'Queen Bees,' Shirley Bowde sings the praises of Bailey.

"She is a great asset to our team," says Bowde. "Calamie made some awesome game-saving catches in the left center field and batted a .470 average for the tourney (Senior Championships). Consequently, Calamie was chosen as one of the Tournament all-stars. All members of the team received world championships," Bowde said.

ANNOUNCEMENT

ASPEN, Colo. — Dr. and Mrs. Paul D. Pace are delighted to announce the engagement of their daughter, Katherine "Katie" Bosshardt Pace, to Timothy Patrick Perryman Halleran, son of Mr. John Halleran and Mrs. Pamela Perryman. Katie is also the daughter of the late Virginia Harris Pace, and the granddaughter of Mrs. Catherine Harris and the late Mr. Robert Harris, Mrs. Agatha Blom, the late Mr. and Mrs. Robert Willson, and the late Mr. David Pace.

Tim is the grandson of Mrs. Marian Halleran and the late Mr. Charles Halleran, and the late Mr. and Mrs. Philip Perryman.

Katie attended Saint Mary's Hall and Pitzer College where she graduated with a degree in art.

She is employed by the United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County as Education Issue Council Manager.

Halleran attended Flintridge Preparatory School in La Canada, Calif., and Pitzer College where he graduated with a degree in environmental sciences.

He is employed by STC Environmental Services as a staff scientist. The wedding is planned for July 28, 2012, in Aspen, Colo.

ACCOMPLISHMENT

MARISSA PROCTOR

CHECOTAH — Marissa Riann Proctor is the daughter of Brian Proctor and Marva Jackson. Marissa was recently crowned the freshman attendant for the Checotah High School Homecoming Basketball event held in January.

Marissa graduated from Ryal School before coming to Checotah High School. She participates in High School basketball, softball and track.

Marissa makes us very proud in her efforts and achievements. We wish her the very best in her future endeavors.

Proctor is of the Bird Clan. Ceremonial Grounds are Hillibee and Greenleaf.

Love Mom and Dad

BIRTHDAYS

TEMPLE, Texas — Jillian Rose Bustamante Ratka celebrated her fourth birthday March 11, 2008 with a Scooby-Doo themed party.

She is the daughter of Jason M. and Jennifer Ratka. Her grandparents are Gustavo M. and Rose Bustamante, and Edward and Virgina Ratka.

Her great grandparents are the late Sam and Fannie Buckley, Jose and Jase Fina Bustamante, Edward and Mary Ratka, and George and Helen Zink.

She is a member of the Deer Clan and her tribal town is Muskogee.

RODRIGUEZ / COMBS

SPRING, Texas — Caitlyn Rodriguez shares her March 5 birthday with father Robert Combs, and son Carlo, 2.

She resides in Spring Texas with her husband Daniel and sons Diego, Paulo and Carlo.

Parents are Lynn Lutzen and Robert Combs.

Robert Combs, father of Caitlyn resides in Little Rock, Ark.

His parents are Joanna and Harold Combs.

Grandparents are Beulah (Doyle) Combs and John Nimrod Doyle.

The three are of the Coweta Tribal Town and celebrated together with a party.

OBITUARIES

NORA CHEEK

OKEMAH — Funeral services for Nora Rosland Manley-Cheek (Arhalokoche) were held Monday, April 16, 2012 at 2 p.m., at the Thlopthlocco United Methodist Church in Okemah.

Interment followed at the Trickey Cemetery. A wake service was held at 7 p.m., Sunday, April 15, 2012 at the Thlopthlocco Methodist Church.

Nora Rosland Manley-Cheek (Arhalokoche), 93 of Okemah, passed away peacefully with family at her side on Thursday, April 12, 2012 at her home in Okemah. Nora entered this world on July 27, 1918 in Okemah to Susie and Siah Manley.

Nora attended Tiger Flat School and was a life long member of the Thlopthlocco United Methodist Church. She was the oldest surviving member of the Thlopthlocco Tribal Town prior to her death and her Clan is Bird.

Nora was also an employee of the Thlopthlocco Tribal Town for many years. She was a cook for five years for the Coopertown Valley School in Coopertown, Okla. In May of 1976, Nora became a Medical Care Aid and remained so until her time of retirement. Nora was a devoted mother and grandmother and was loved by all of her children, grandchildren and family.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Siah Manley and Susie Foster and husband Weaver Cheek (Arhalokoche); sisters, Ella Mae Jimboy, and Emma Lou Duncan; step-sisters, Alice and Veida Foster and grandsons, Kenny Lyn Bunner, Shawn Derrick McGertt, Michael Weaver and Eric Weaver.

Nora is survived by her 10 children; Wanda Weaver of Sapulpa, Julia Langan of Stillwater, Sonny Cheek of Perkins, Mary McGertt of Glenpool, Cindy (Sam) Yahola of Tulsa, Brenda (Victor) of Tama, Iowa, Grace Bunner of Okemah, Perry Cheek of Okemah, Nina (Phil) Ozment of OKC and Tim Cheek of Okemah; and one sister, Elizabeth Trickey of Okemah. Nora was very proud and blessed by each of her 26 grandchildren, 45 great-grandchildren and 4 great-great grandchildren and a host of nieces and nephews.

Serving as active pallbearers will be: Bryan McGertt, Jarin Cheek, Cody McGertt, Keith Bunner, Jared Bunner, Kevin Yahola, David Haney, Travis White, Jonathan Cheek and Aharon Cheek.

Honorary bearers include: Sam Yahola, Phil Ozment, Victor White, Bob Reilly and Lance Warn.

Services were under the direction of Parks Brothers Funeral Home, Okemah and officiated by Rev. Edwin Jimboy, Rev. Randy Colbert and Rev. Victor White.

Online condolences may be made at www.ParksBrothersFuneralHome.com

BILLIE ANN COUNTERMAN

HENRYETTA — Billie Ann Counterman, a longtime resident of Henryetta, died Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2012 in Tulsa at the age of 74.

She was born Sept. 26, 1937 in Dustin, Okla.,to Daniel Gaines Evans and Annie (Roberts) Evans.

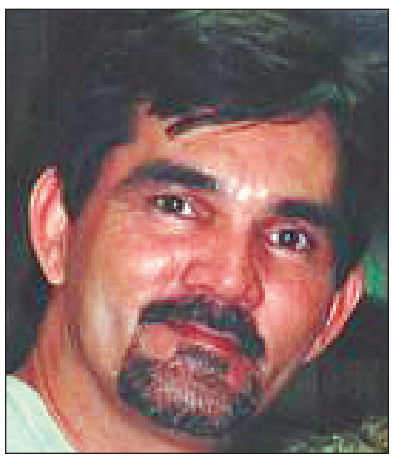
She was a member of the Thlewarle Indian Baptist Church and Immanuel Baptist Church, and the Bear Clan of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

She contributed to the authorship of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and was and was loving, kind, and considerate to all.

She was preceded in death by her parents, sisters, Irene Smith, Geneva Barnett, Dollie Scantling and Hannah Evans, and brother Jimmie Evans.

She is survived by two daughters, Alicia Tumey & husband Dennis of Dallas, Texas; and Patricia Frye of Henryetta; grandchildren, Kari Chambers & husband Jonathan of Alvarado, Texas; Michael Lonsdale of Thailand; Joshua Counterman & wife Mayci of Colorado Springs, Colorado; Brittany Lonsdale & husband Larry Smith of Dallas; Derrick Frye & wife Harlibeth of Oklahoma City, and Caleb Lonsdale of San Diego, California; seven great grandchildren, Lillian Chambers, Livia Chambers, Tragon Chambers, Kaden Counterman, River Counterman, Tyler Counterman and Alex Lovheo, one sister Jane Evans of Dustin; as well as a host of other relatives and friends.

AARON DEERINWATER



TULSA — Aaron Sunday Deerinwater was born July 24, 1964 to Alex and Pat Deerinwater in Sac atone, Arizona. He departed this life January 3, 2012 in Tulsa at the age of 47 years, 5 months, and 10 days.

Aaron spent his youth in Mesa, Ariz., before moving with his family to Bristow in 1979. He graduated from Bristow High School in 1982. He worked as a forklift operator in shipping and receiving for Rolled Alloys Company in Tulsa. He also was a volunteer Firefighter in Bristow for over 13 years. He was a member of the Freedom Hill Baptist Church.

On Nov. 20, 2004 Aaron Deerinwater and Nikkie Gann were united in marriage. They enjoyed over seven years in marriage before his passing. He had many joys in life including, reading books, putting together model cars, drag racing, as well as playing the guitar and watching Texas Ranger and Oakland A's Baseball, but most importantly spending time with his children and grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife, Nikkie Deerinwater of the Bristow home. Two children, Ashley Deerinwater West & husband Dereck of Bristow, and Adam Deerinwater & wife Brittany of Hindsville, Ga. One sister, Eyahni Deerinwater of Mannford, Okla., four grandchildren, Alexa Deerinwater, Noah West, Lilly West, & Rylan Deerinwater; two nieces, Tae-Marie Deerinwater and Summer Deerinwater and one nephew, Jon Deerinwater.

He was preceded in death by his father, Alex Deerinwater.

Funeral services were Jan. 9 2012, at Hutchins-Maphles Funeral home Chapel with Rev. John Severson officiating.

ROBERT FIFE

BRISTOW — Robert James Fife, age 88, passed away on Thursday, March 22, 2012 in Bristow, Okla.

He was born March 8, 1924 in Dewar, Okla., to Una Fife and Lydia (Starr) Fife. He graduated from Sequoyah Indian Boarding School.

Robert served in the U.S. Marines for two years during World War II. He worked as a Line Mechanic for American Airlines for 32 years.

In his spare time he enjoyed listening to big band music and tinkering with electronics.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Una and Lydia Fife, his loving wife Jennie Lee (Bark) Fife, his daughter, Melissa Fife and his son, Charles Eugene Cochran.

Robert is survived by his son Gary and his wife Ramona, his son Vic and his wife Susan, his two granddaughters, Autumn Christie and her husband, Nathan, Amanda Beller and her husband, Chris along with other family members and friends.

THOMAS FIXICO

OKEMAH — Funeral services for Thomas Albert Fixico were held Thursday, April 19, 2012 at 2 p.m., at the Springfield Methodist Church south of Okemah. Interment followed at the Cully Johnson Family Cemetery northeast of Okemah. A wake service was held Wednesday evening at the Springfield Church.

Thomas Albert Fixico was born Oct. 6, 1977 in Claremore, Okla., to Robert Fixico and Nadine Ruth Berryhill. He passed away Sunday, April 15, 2012 near Davis, Okla., at the age of 34.

Thomas had been a resident of the Okemah area most all of his life and was a graduate of Okemah High School in 1997. Thomas worked as an electrician and enjoyed watching and playing sports, attending family functions and watching his children participate in sports.

Thomas is survived by his son, Caleb Fixico; his daughter, Caden Fixico; his father, Robert Fixico of Okemah; mother, Nadine Ruth Berryhill of Okemah; his maternal grandmother, Marie Berryhill of Okemah; one brother, Robert Fixico, Jr. of Okemah and one sister, Yvonda Fixico also of Okemah.

Serving as active pallbearers will be Antonio Garcia III, Culley Lowe, Doran Fixico, Kolby Humble, Adam Robinson, Fous Ahaisse.

Honorary Bearers include Seneca Smith, Robert Mooneyham, Vincent Coon, Albert Fixico, Daryl Cameron and Colin Coon.

Services will be under the direction of Parks Brothers Funeral Home, Okemah and officiated by Rev. David Little.

Online condolences may be made at www.ParksBrothersFuneralHome.com

TIM HARLEY, SR.

HENRYETTA — Tim Harley Sr. a resident of Henryetta passed away on Feb. 15, 2012 in Henryetta at the age of 85.

He was born July 9, 1926 in Vernon, Okla., to Alex and Stella (Proctor) Harley.

He married Lois Hicks in Eufaula, Okla., Nov. 18, 1950 and celebrated 61 years of marriage.

He was raised around Hanna and Vernon area until May 26, 1968 when he moved to Henryetta where he made his home.

He retired from Pepsi-Cola in Tulsa.

Tim enjoyed his life with family and friends and loved spending time with all his grandchildren. One of his hobbies was country music and writing songs for Nashville. He also wrote a song that was a hit for Leon McCaliff (Sugar & Salt).

He was a pastor at Hillabe Indian Baptist Church in Hanna.

He is preceded in death by a son in law; Paul Edward Smith and two grandsons; Shaun Edmond Smith and Nathaniel Ramirez.

A memorial service was held Feb. 20, 2012 at 2 p.m. at the Hillabee Indian Baptist Church with Rev. Wallace Gambler officiating. Interment was held at Hanna Cemetery under the direction of Rogers Funeral Home.

The Family would like to say "Mvto" to the Belvin Baptist Church of the Hanna Indian Community, Rev. Wallace Gambler, Danny Lindsey, Oscar Harjo, Second Chief Roger Barnett and staff for all you kindness and support.

SEE HARLEY - 11

MCN Citizenship Office updating death records

Media Release
MCN Citizenship Office

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Office is asking family members of deceased citizens to contact our office in order to update the deceased citizens' information. The office is also requesting the original state certified full image death certificate of the citizen.

The original document will be returned. This is in response to the Citizenship Office's efforts to update the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's files.

For more information, please contact the office at (918) 732-7941.

MNN no longer printing announcements

Media Release
Muscogee Nation News

OKMULGEE — As a reminder, The Muscogee Nation News will no longer be accepting or publishing announcements.

Due to the need for increased space for news and other editorial content, announcements will no longer be accepted by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Communications Department for inclusion in print media. Obituaries will still be included.

Harley

Continued from Page 10

Ace and Linda Buckley, Speedy and Saundra Harley, Robert and Leah Solomon and a host of family and friends, and the City of Hanna.

MVTO,

Tim Harley Family

RUDOLPH JOHNSON, SR.

ARDMORE — Rudolph Johnson, Sr., a resident of Ardmore, Okla., passed from this life on Thursday, Jan. 12, 2012 in Oklahoma City at the age of 85.

Rudolph was born on Jan. 5, 1927 in Wewoka, Okla., to Charlie Johnson and Hinney (Simmer) Johnson.

Rudolph grew up in the eastern Oklahoma towns of Wewoka, Henryetta and Okemah.

He joined the regular U.S. Army and served in Korea where he faithfully served until he was honorably discharged in 1946. He served with the 31st Infantry Regiment. Rudolph received the WW II Victory Medal and an Army of Occupation medal. While he was attending school at Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kansas, Rudolph joined the Army National Guard and served from 1947 to 1950 with an honorable discharge.

Rudolph was a member of the McAlister Baptist Church in Overbrook, Okla. He will be remembered for his love of family and his church. He was a familiar figure on the church grounds, always finding ways to improve and maintain the church and surroundings. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. He was an avid hunter who enjoyed all kinds of hunting. He enjoyed attending all day gun shows and bowling. He won several trophies bowling in All-Indian bowling tournaments. He and his wife were actively involved in language classes to teach their native Creek and Choctaw languages.

Known by his family as the consummate handyman, Rudolph always had a repair project in the works. Rudolph married Etta Postoak in Las Vegas, Nev., May 21, 1992.

He was preceded in death by his mother and his father; a daughter, Arlene Johnson; a sister, Christine Harjo Tory; a brother; Jerome Stanley Johnson; and a sister-in-law, Ramona Harjo.

He is survived by his wife Etta of the home in Ardmore; by four daughters, Zita Marie Medicine of Henryetta, Ann HornedEagle and husband Clyde of Horton, KS, Velma Delores Blacksmith of Horton, KS, Karen Thomas and husband Jr. of Horton, KS; three sons, Rudolph Johnson, Jr., and wife Amy of Horton, Kansas, Randolph Lee Johnson and wife Rhonda of Powhattan, Kansas, Noah Aaron Johnson and wife Renee of Lawrence, Kansas, a stepson, Robert McDonald of Ardmore; by 19 grandchildren and 23 great grandchildren; by three brothers, Austin Amos Harjo and wife Louise of Muskogee, Josh Harjo of Canadian, and Amon Harjo and wife Sylvia of Anadarko.

Funeral service was held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 14, 2012 at Salem Baptist Church with Rev. Amon Harjo and Rev. Josh Harjo officiating. Private committal services were held in Horton, Kansas with military honors.

WILLIAM STERLING KNIGHT, JR.

OKLAHOMA CITY — William Sterling Knight Jr. resident of Oklahoma City passed away March 9, 2012 at the age of 2 months.

William Sterling Knight, Jr. was born Dec. 14, 2011 in Oklahoma City, Okla., to William Sterling Knight and Yolanda Olguin.

Survivors include his parents, William Sterling Knight and Yolanda Olguin of Oklahoma City, Okla.; 6 brothers; six sisters, including Tristin Knight of the home in Oklahoma City, Okla.; paternal grandmother, Barbara Johnson Hernandez of Oklahoma City, Okla.; maternal grandparents, Anna Rose Johnson of McCloud, Okla., and Benjamin Olguin of Mexico; and two aunts, Gwen Barraza of Oklahoma City, Okla., and Jackie Tulsa of Skiatook, Okla.

Funeral services were held Friday, March 16, 2012 at 2 p.m., at the Johnson Family Cemetery, in Okemah, Okla.

Interment followed at the Johnson Family Cemetery.

Services were under the direction of Parks Brothers Funeral Home, Okemah and officiated by Rev. Dave Hill.

Online condolences may be made at www.ParksBrothersFuneralHome.com.

MARGARET LEAH BRUNER SARRACINO

HOLDENVILLE — Margaret L. Bruner Sarracino, 95, of Holdenville passed away on Saturday March 17, 2012 at the Knott Avenue Family Care Center.

Margaret was born Jan. 4, 1917 in Holdenville, Okla., to Charley Bruner and Sallie Terrapin. She was educated at Sherman Indian School in Riverside, Calif. She later went back to school and received her counseling certification at University of California (USC). She was married to Rev. Emmett Sarracino in 1943, who preceded her in death.

She was baptized at Laguna United Presbyterian Church in the early 1940s.

Survivors include daughters Leah Saccamoni Gray; of South Barrington, Ill.; Peggy Sarracino Barnett,Anaheim, Calif., son in law Robert Gray; grandsons Jackson Lee Barnett, Jr., of Yukon, Brandon Emathla Barnett, of Okmulgee, Timothy Ryan Barnett of Okmulgee; and Bradley Sarracino Barnett of Laurel, Md., and grand-daughters-in-law Regina B. Barnett of Laurel, Md.; and Allison Barnett of Yukon, great- grandchildren Kaira Rain Pigeon of Okmulgee, Forrest V. Barnett of Yukon, Shelby Sarracino Barnett, of Yukon; Jaiden Prince of Yukon, great-great grandchildren: Anthony James Pigeon, Okmulgee; Nicholas Jaden Pigeon of Okmulgee, Kayla Rain Barnett of Okmulgee, granddaughter Tracie Lynn and her son great grandson Jordan Albert. Brother John Bradley.

She is preceded in death by her husband Emmett D., her daughter Emmette M., her son Albert W., her parents, Charley Bruner and Sallie Bruner Hall, sisters Louella Spencer, Frances Maxine Webb, brothers John Hall, Charles Hall her great-granddaughter Kylie Jade Barnett.

Service was held at Laguna United Presbyterian Church, Casa Blanca, N.M., March 24, 2012.

Wishes and prayers may be sent to: 225 S. Rio Vista #72, Anaheim, CA. 92806.

Thank you to the Muscogee Nation for their contribution during our time of loss of great-great grandmother. Also thank you to the departments of the government which implemented services. Our family sends their collaborative mvto.

Peggy Sarracino Shoreline

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River Spirit Event Center
May 17-18, 2012
8330 Riverside Pkwy
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Moderators:
Hon. Gregory H. Bigler, BS, JD, LL.M, Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court Judge
Jasen Chadwick, JD – Staff Attorney - Muscogee (Creek) Nation Supreme Court

Faculty Members:
Stacy Leeds, JD – Dean, University of Arkansas College of Law
Judith V. Royster, JD – Professor of Law, University of Tulsa
G.W. Rice, JD – Professor of Law , University of Tulsa
Steven Hager, JD – Director of Litigation - Oklahoma Indian Legal Services
Debra Gee, JD – Deputy Attorney General – Chickasaw Nation
Jennifer H. McBee, JD – McCormick & Bryan
Hon. Eugene Bertman, JD – McCormick & Bryan

COURSE OUTLINE - DAY ONE
May 17, 2012

8:00	Registration and Breakfast
8:40	Opening Ceremony
8:45	Welcome and Introduction – Gregory H. Bigler
9:00	Past, Present and Future of Federal Indian Law – Stacy Leeds
9:50	Break
10:00	Avoiding Legal Pitfalls associated with the Indian Child Welfare Act – Steve Hager
11:00	The Tribal Law & Order Act and how it is affecting tribes - Debra Gee
11:50	Lunch – Visions Buffet
1:10	The Legal Battle for Water – Is it worth it to the Tribes? Judith Royster
2:00	Break
2:10	Federal Indian Law and Traditional Law: A Complex Relationship – Gregory H. Bigler
3:00	Tribal Casino Tort Claims - Jennifer McBee & Gene Bertman
4:00	Question & Answer Session and Evaluations of Day 1 – All Faculty and Speakers
5:00	Supreme Court Swearing in Ceremony - River Spirit Events Center
5:30	Buffet Dinner provided at the River Spirit Casino in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Bar Association

COURSE OUTLINE - DAY TWO
May 18, 2012

7:45	Registration and Breakfast
8:15	Opening Remarks – Gregory H. Bigler
8:30	Tribal Child Support: A Legal Overview of the System – April Buck
9:30	Business Ventures with Tribes – David McCullough
10:20	Break
10:30	The History of Tribal Courts - G. William Rice
11:20	Break
11:30	Ethical Considerations - A Tribal Perspective - Travis Pickens
12:20	Question & Answer Session and Evaluations of Day 2 – All Faculty and Speakers
	Adjourn

Tuition Structure: $200 for both days
Daily Rates – Day One – $150
10 hours of CLE credit with 1 hour of ethics

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New 2012 graduates at College of the Muscogee Nation

MNN/*Gary Fife*

College of the Muscogee Nation student BreAnna Conklin of Broken Arrow delivered the student response on behalf of the graduating class of 2012 during the ceremonies.

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — For the fourth time, the College of the Muscogee Nation has sent a class of graduates out into the world, and for the second time, their ceremony was conducted at the campus of the Muscogee college, April 20, 2012.

Thirty-one graduates marched across the college plaza to receive diplomas in Mvskoke Language Studies, Gaming, Tribal Services, and Native American Studies. Some will go on to other institutions of higher learning, some to work in cultural studies and some will become part of tribal gaming enterprises.

Dean of Academic Affairs, Angela Bunner was proud to see this batch of students complete this phase of their education, "It does represent a lot of progress. We've come a long way since being established in 2004, to have our own facility, to have our own graduation ceremony here, we do take a lot of pride in that. There's a lot of accomplishment."

It turns out that the CMN students become the best recruiters, according to Bunner. They're sharing their own success stories with family and friends, "When a student goes back to the communities, goes back home to their families and they share the positive experiences they are having here, they share their academic successes—that takes on a whole different meaning for those out in the communities that are hearing that because that's personal testimony from students who are experiencing that for themselves."

Rebecca Barnett of Hanna, was a Mvskoke Language Studies major. Already a fluent Mvskoke language speaker, Barnett attended the school to teach. The experience was wonderful for a student who hadn't been in school for about three decades, "I hadn't been in school for about 30 years. I came back. The teachers were real compassionate, helpful, students were just really respectful and really nice. It was a good experience for me to come back to school." Her fluency in the Creek language was a good basis, and she was able to sharpen that skill in class, "I spoke the language but I was slow in reading and writing and when I got into class, that was a whole different world for me."

Barnett is teaching at a Creek immersion program.

With Native teachers, instructors and staff, a family atmosphere was created for Barnett, a factor that greatly contributed to her success, "When I first walked into this building, I saw smiles and then seeing all these American Indian students walking around, having a smile on their face, not being discouraged, that's what made me feel so comfortable."

When she walked down the aisle to receive her diploma, Barnett predicted she would feel, "Success. I'm older. I'm not as young as they are. I'm going to be proud of myself, 'cause I did come back and I finished."

BreAnna Conklin, of Broken Arrow majored in Native American Studies and delivered the student response during the ceremonies. It was an experience in gaining self-confidence as well as the education, "At first it was kind of nerve-racking because I didn't really know anything. Now, I feel I've improved myself not only as a person, but as a Muscogee citizen. I think I have gained the knowledge more or less of our ancestors and more of my past and I feel more complete."

The small school experience worked in her favor, she said, by providing her with the kind of education she felt was not available at a larger school, "It had information that I couldn't get anywhere else. I could go to a big university, but they're not going to tell me what kind of cultural aspects that I didn't know about. I learned so much, I'm so happy I came here."

Conklin credits being around other Native students as being critical to her academic achievement, "It was perfect; I felt the connection even though I didn't know why I was feeling the connection. We all were here for a purpose that we might not have understood, but it made sense in the end. It was great to be surrounded by people that I could play stickball with. I could joke around and they would understand because they came from about the same background."

Principal Chief George Tiger delivered the keynote address. He reminded the graduates of the long history of education for Creek citizens and called the occasion the "culmination of our vision for you and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation." He recalled the biblical story of how the Hebrew David defeated the Philistine giant, Goliath with a stone from a slingshot, saying "In your lives there will be Goliaths and your stone is your education."

College of the Muscogee Nation holds first annual career fair

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE — On Wednesday April 11, 2012 the College of the Muscogee Nation held its first annual Career Fair.

Local businesses and various departments of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation set up booths, took questions and provided information about their organizations to inquiring students.

CMN Dean of Student Affairs Monte Randall commented on the goal of the fair.

"This is an initiative from the tribal administrators to get CMN graduates hired on with the nation. Tribal Services is probably the most popular and broad of our degrees. It has opened up and it has given a different perspective of what they can do with that degree by bringing in these different programs within the nation," said Randall.

CMN President Robert Bible gave his input on the goals of this event and pointed out its timeliness.

"We're starting to have graduates now and people are starting to come to us wanting to hire our graduates. That is what we are trying to do is prepare our students for the work force and this is the first step," said Bible.

Job Developer Nancy Mason from Muscogee (Creek) Nation Employment and Training Administration shared her perspective as a recruiter.

"For our agency, I hope to connect with students who are looking for employment because that is the focus of our program, to help youth and adults get jobs. To let them know that there is a resource out there that could help them in their job searches," said Mason.

Mason also hoped to make connections with another group.

"I think on the other side, a benefit for our office is that we get to connect with these other exhibitors. So that's just another connection in the community," she said.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Museum Director John Beaver listed the diverse group of professionals he is seeking as staff for the future MCN Museum and Cultural Center.

"My degree and Mr. Giles' degree is in anthropology and archeology but there is certainly a place for historians, people who have an interest in fine arts, and business management, which will be an important part of this business project. With this project we want a lot of native, tribal, and community participation," said Beaver.

College of the Muscogee Nation student Amber Lankford explained how she hoped to benefit from the event.

"What I hoped to gain from here was just broadening my perspective of what positions are out there. After being in school for a little bit, you are kind of ready to get out there and work," said Lankford.

Principal Chief George Tiger shared his feeling on the career fair.

I think it's a good opportunity for people to come and apply for positions through the Creek Nation, as well as the opportunity for them to come see the college, which we are very proud of. We encourage our tribal members and anyone seeking better employment to come and apply. [This is] The first one [career fair] and hopefully there will be many more to come," said Tiger.

MNN/*Sterling Cosper*

Many Muscogee (Creek) Nation departments attended the College of the Muscogee Nation's first annual career day and shared their insight on employers' needs with students.

From Georgia Tradgedy to Oklahoma Frontier
A biography of Scots Creek Indian Chief Chilly McIntosh
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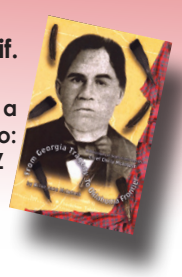

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MCN Lighthorse Part I: Protection and Public Outreach

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — "People don't call us out for birthdays; they call us out for problems". That's the way Officer Danny Beaver put it.

Dispatch is where the day starts for the officers of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Police.

On an early Thursday morning, the first thing is to follow up on the previous night's activities. The Lighthorse Dispatcher going off duty has to brief the one coming on duty about what has happened to keep the night crew of five Muscogee (Creek) Nation officers busy. They've been patrolling the nine counties that make up the Creek Nation jurisdictions, making their presence known on small town streets and rural roads.

Day shift officers radio in as they come on duty, making themselves available to respond to community calls for assistance.

There's the paperwork to be done, recording the law enforcement activities, chronicling the up and down cycles that comprise the weekday night shift. Dispatchers review the status and locations of officers on computer monitors before them. At their fingertips are data bases that can research license tags, recall the latest crime situations and suspects and other needs an officer in the field might have.

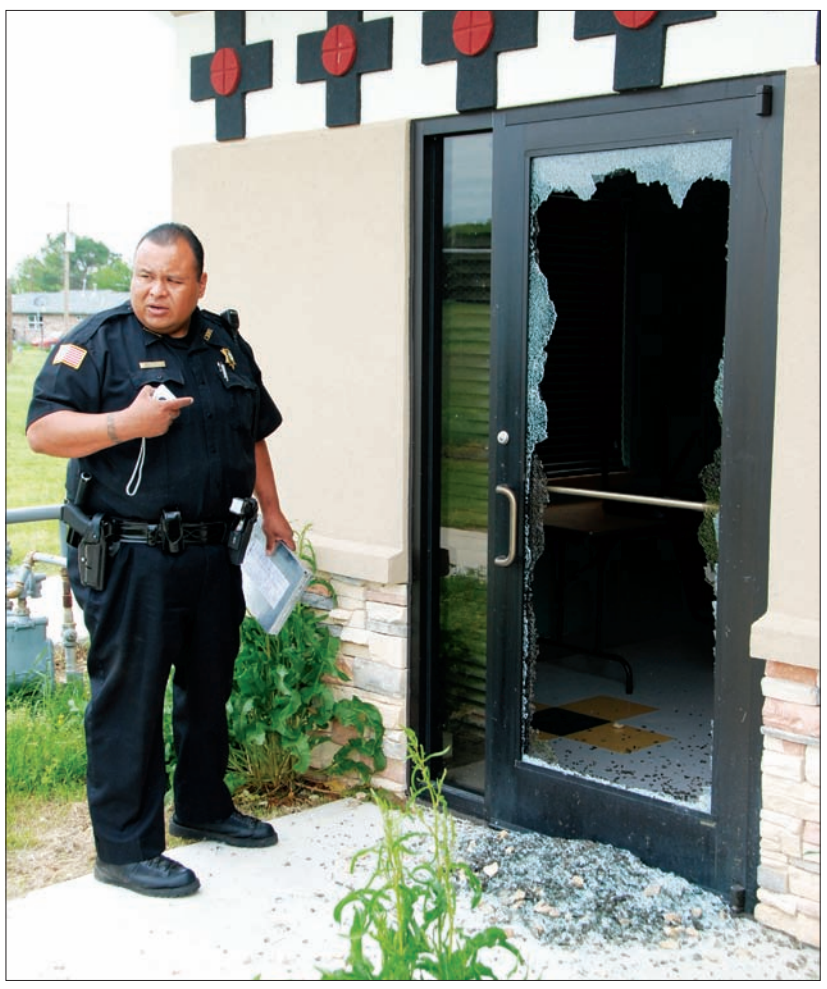
The numbers and reports flow to Trillia Riley, Records Manager for the department. She adds them to her lists, preparing the various reports that compile the work performed by the department. Her review points to drugs—specifically methamphetamines, which top the list of crimes that Lighthorse must deal with. That's along with the traffic stops, casino disturbances, security checks and even the occasional animal control request that come in. In performing those duties, she felt that the whole department—officers and administrators alike— share in the feeling that they do make a difference, "I'm glad we're here for the people," Riley says.

"OFFICER 10-8"

Beaver begins a morning patrol of the southern districts of the Creek Nation. Five counties south of Okmulgee comprise his area of responsibility. With that radio code, he signs on duty, available to respond to calls anywhere in his section.

A morning shift on a weekday is not going to have a lot of activity. Starting at 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., it's not a prime time for a large number of casino patrons, but heightened activity at community centers. "It's one of those things that's 'hit and miss,' he says, the weather has a lot to do with it, being down south, it rains a lot, a lot of rural roads a lot of them can't get out. We deal with a lot more elders who don't get out when it's wet or cold."

He makes sure that he tells his family how much he cares for them as he starts his day> "My frame of mind in the morning—tell my wife and my kids that I love them very much. Of course, I pray every day because this is one of the jobs where you're in the line of fire, pretty much. You're the first line of defense for everybody, regardless of whether they're Creek citizens or if they're white, black, it doesn't matter…. that's one of the things that comes with the job. You've got to put yourself on the line and regardless of your feelings about any kind of person, you've got to defend them."



MNN/*Gary Fife*
Lighthorse Officer Danny Beaver investigates broken glass at the Wetumka Creek Indian Community Center.

Beaver grew up in this area so he's familiar with the roads, communities and people of this rural section of the Creek Nation. That works to his advantage, "Talking with the officers that have been working the area, they can look at a car they can tell you right off the bat, 'that's such-and-such', married to such-and-such, or he just got out of jail, it's like a little hometown feel, like 'Mayberry'.

As he cruised down country lanes of red, soggy mud, Beaver shared his thoughts on what runs through his mind "Every time we get on a road, like this is Highway 52, I always try to make a mental note on where I'm at, just for the fact that if I was to see a burning car or a house on fire, I know where it is right off the bat."

9:15 AM - ARBEKA CEREMONIAL GROUNDS: Beaver pulls up to the gate to check the lock. Trespassers have been known to break the locks and then leave them looking like they're closed to fool security checks. The lock is secure, Beaver reports to dispatch.

9:19 AM - STOLEN VEHICLE REPORTED: Dispatcher broadcasts alert for stolen Harley-Davidson motorcycle. Beaver adds that item to his lists of concerns for the day, "You never know where that's going to come up."

9:40 AM - ASSEMBLY OF GOD CAMPGROUNDS: A door is open at Fellowship Hall building. Beaver calls it in and gets out to check it, very cautiously, his hand near his sidearm. Nothing appears to be missing or disturbed. He closes it and reports it secure.

The rural section does not produce a lot of excitement and activity. That's something, he said, that attracts the younger officers working the northern area, like Tulsa. That's OK with him, Beaver laughs, he doesn't miss it, "There's really nothing going on. The young cops, they want to jump on everything, save the world in one night, they want to be where the action is, like Tulsa. I don't mind the laid back atmosphere where there's not too much."

Beaver says that the presence of a police vehicle of the road causes some drivers to do things like correct their speed, or pay more attention to their driving. "Some will slow down, some will hurry up and put their seat belt on, some will hurry up and get their four-wheelers off the road."

Some, he said, are just happy to see some law enforcement presence, "A lot of these citizens will smile 'cause they're happy to see that we're out here this far back in the woods where they live. A lot times they'll say, 'Well, I didn't know you all come out here or I'm glad to see you all are out here, it makes me feel good."

9:50 AM - YARDEKA CAMPGROUNDS: On a drive through the church meeting ground, Beaver points out where some all-terrain vehicle riders had cut concentric circles, 'doughnuts' in the grounds of the camp.

If the Lighthorse do make an arrest in a case, the suspects will usually go to one of two places: if it's an Indian, the suspects are taken to the Okmulgee jail; if it's a non-Indian land, the suspect is transported to the local county jail.

The jurisdiction issue has always created confusion with many citizens. The Lighthorse have cross-deputization agreements with most jurisdictions and the power to stop lawbreakers there. Beaver said many people still think Lighthorse has no power over them "I explain it to them and even then they say I can't do it because they're not Indian. It doesn't matter if you're Indian or not, you're in violation of the law or they'll say, 'I don't have a Creek tag.' Well, a Creek tag doesn't have anything to do with it."

Police work has always been a dangerous occupation and officers have carried firearms and used them when the occasion called for it. Beaver has not had to draw and use his sidearm, something for which he is thankful "Thank God I didn't have to. But there have been situations that revert back to being out here by the side of the road, I have pulled it out and held it out in my hand. It basically cuts down on time if I needed to use it."

Among his radio gear and computer equipment, Beaver keeps an eagle feather and a miniature model of a Star Wars movie spacecraft, the Millennium Falcon hanging in his truck. One is for his cultural pride and protection, the other for some comic relief. It was a gift from his son "I asked him, 'why did you give me that?' He said, 'Because it's the fastest ship in the fleet.' Other officers always tell me to keep something in your car that will break it up, that will make you smile, that will get you over little things."

10:31 AM - DRUG PARAPHERNALIA AT OKEMAH HOSPITAL: Hospital security reports that a citizen found a metal marijuana pipe across the road from the hospital. Beaver would not be able to get any fingerprints off the pipe, so it will be taken to Lighthorse headquarters to be destroyed.

11:05 AM - VANDALISM AT WETUMKA COMMUNITY CENTER: A back door's glass has been totally shattered and lies in a pile just inside the door. A rusty iron bar lies in the grass near the scene. Computer equipment sits a few feet away from the broken door, but has not been disturbed. Rocks from the landscaping lie scattered over the floor. A tiny bouquet of flowers lies crushed on the porch. Beaver thinks a group of young children broke the door and then ran away. No other vandalism has occurred. Beaver spends some time discussing the situation with the center's staff and files a watch order to have Lighthorse keep an eye on the center. He also talks with the workers about enhanced security systems available. Beaver is invited to share lunch with the elders there, and chats with them about why they think the vandalism occurs. The kids, they say, have nothing to do, no recreational alternatives in the tiny community and a lot of idle time. A nearby basketball goal has been nearly twisted off the support pole. Gang-type graffiti covers the back of a nearby shed.

12:30 PM - WETUMKA DOWNTOWN: Beaver pulls over to talk with a young man he knows from a childcare dispute. The young man is working to regain custody of a child from an ex-girlfriend. The child is not even his biological child, but he has taken care of the girl for some time and developed a close relationship with her. Now the biological mother wants the child back. Beaver gives the stepfather some moral support and guidance.

The rest of the afternoon will be spent cruising the Creek housing neighborhoods, checking local smoke shops, health care facilities and the Southern Regional Center. He will head back to the Okmulgee headquarters in time to write up reports and the associated paperwork.

The morning shift has gone quietly. Beaver has answered the few calls that came in for him. A good part of his time has been spent with citizens, listening to their concerns, sharing their food, joking with them and being a reassuring presence. It's been another day that Beaver can put behind him, a day when complacency didn't have a place and he can look forward to getting home to his family.

When Danny Beaver finishes his day: Officer 10-7

MCN Indian Health Service offers program targeting meth

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE — IHS is currently offering a program geared toward the treatment and prevention of methamphetamine use.

The Meth and Suicide Program Initiative (MSPI) was created to address two of Native American's worst social issues.

MSPI Program Coordinator Leslie Crow explained the severity of meth use among natives.

"Native American populations are affected a lot by meth, and the statistics show that it is one of our biggest problems," she said.

According to a survey by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration, Native Americans have the highest rate of methamphetamine use among any ethnicity. The survey, conducted between 2002 and 2004, reports the use rates of American Indians/Alaskan Natives at 1.7 percent.

The MSPI offers treatment for anyone with a CDIB card. The program also tries to help those who are non-native as well.

"Any time we put articles in the paper or put information out in the communities, we try to include other information in case someone has a friend or loved one who is not Native American, because they are still in our communities and we all live amongst each other. Sometimes we can help family members if they aren't Native American, if they're part of that person's family, like step-children, adopted children, things like that," said Crow.

Crow described the strategy the program uses to address this issue.

"One of our goals is to try and attack the problem from a lot of different angles. We are working to make treatment more available to people within our boundaries. We provide outpatient services, but there are some resources we can provide for people who need inpatient services like detox," she said.

She went into further detail about some of the strategies the program uses and how they hope to improve their approach in the future.

"We want to be able to provide more training for our clinicians so that they are more skilled in providing the treatment that people need. We are reaching out just to create awareness in our communities because a lot of people aren't aware of what to look for," Crow said.

Crow explained why this awareness is especially important for Native Americans.

"With Native American families, a lot of them have maybe three generations living in the same home, or close together. It's even important for elderly people to be able to recognize if the younger generation is having problems or showing signs of meth or if there are signs of a meth lab in their neighborhood. It really does affect everybody," she said.

Tribal members can contact the MSPI at 1-888-756-4333 between 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

"It rings here in Okmulgee but a lot of people aren't aware that we have offices in Coweta, Sapulpa, Okemah, Eufaula and Wetumka now," said Crow.

For online information on methamphetamine abuse visit www.methproject.org.

REPORT SIGNS OF METH PRODUCTION

- chemical smells (like ether, ammonia, vinegar or solvents)
- empty containers of lye, acetone, denatured alcohol, drain cleaner, camp fuel, cold tablet boxes, and batteries
- red-stained coffee filters, glassware with rubber tubing attached, buckets of kitty litter, chemical stains on carpet, car seats, etc.
- homes with windows covered or blacked out
- propane burners, possibly stained with blue

Learn more - www.stoptribalmeth.org

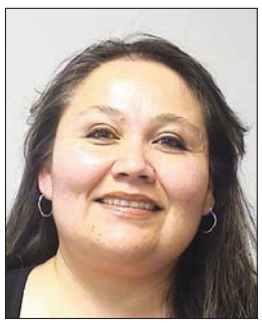
Montana State University Extension
Tribal Meth Education Training & Help Center

National Congress of American Indians

METH. In Tribal Communities

2012 MCN National Council Primary Election candidates

Dode Barnett
National Council - Creek District



Seat: B
Clan: Bird
Tribal Town: Hecete Etvlwv
Church: Salt Creek UMC
Family: Mother is Phyllis Bruner Warrington, maternal grandparents are the late Lizzie and George Bruner. I am blessed with four children; my eldest is in college; my younger three attend Sapulpa Public Schools.

Education/Experience: 1989 graduate of Sapulpa High School, 90 hours undergraduate work in Elementary Education and managerial workplace experience.

Platform: " I would be honored to serve as a representative and humbly ask for your vote in the upcoming special election May 5, 2012. I was raised in Sapulpa and blessed with a family that loved, encouraged and taught me to serve others. I have served on our JOM and Title VII Parent Committees for several years. We must invest every available resource in our youth. What I lack in political experience, I make up for in perspective; I have experienced being failed by programs that do not always meet our citizens' needs. What I lack in degrees, I offer a common sense approach and keep the greater good in mind on all decisions. I am community minded; strong communities build a strong nation. Each district is unique with it's own needs and I would always keep this in mind. Accountability is vital to our success. Mvto, for your vote May 5!"

Larry Thayer
National Council - Creek District

In the April 15 edition of the MNN, Creek District Muscogee (Creek) National Council candidate Larry Thayer's platform was printed incorrectly. Please see the corrected information below.

The Muscogee Nation News apologizes for this error and any confusion it may have caused.

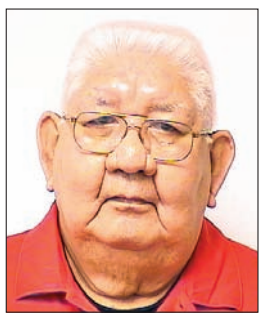
Seat: B
Clan: Nokose (Bear)
Tribal Town: Tuskegee
Church: First United Methodist Church - Sapulpa
Family: Wife of 27 years, Melissa and two children, Mindy and Tyler

Education: Associates of Science in Agriculture from Northeastern Oklahoma A&M and Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from Oklahoma State University

Experience: Veteran of the 2/75th Ranger Battalion, Fort Lewis Washington, served as Sapulpa City Commissioner, SHOW Board member, Creek County Fair Board and on the Sapulpa Board of Education. "I am comfortable in dealing with multimillion dollar budgets. I also have been self-employed for 25 years in the retail business and I have a strong business background."

Platform: Muscogee Creek Nation is a big business and should be treated as such. Maximizing revenue in all areas available, which include gaming, smoke shops, travel plazas, investments, and etc. are critical. Members have many needs that need to be met and the more revenue generated the better chance Muscogee Creek Nation has in fulfilling these needs. Running any successful business requires a strong accountability process, which can track all funds being spent. This can determine which entities are profitable and which are not. A good business plan is proactive not reactive. Let's determine small problems before they turn into big problems. This is what I do everyday. Muscogee Creek Nation is doing okay, but I have never been satisfied with okay. We can do a lot better. I feel that I would be an asset to an already excellent council. New Face – New Ideas – Businessman.

Roman Watashe
National Council - Creek District



Seat: B
Clan: Nokose (Bear)
Ceremonial Ground: Polecat-Euchee
Church: Picket Chapel, Little Cussetah Baptist Church Honorary Deacon; Royal Ambassador Leader
Family: Two sons, Solomon and Ben Watashe

Military Service: Served and retired from the Marine Corps and the Army over 20 years as Platoon Sergeant.

Education/ Experience: Euchee Boarding School, Washington Public School, Senyca Indian School, Advance Schools Inc., Mobile Engines at OSU Okmulgee, Electrical Associated Independent, Electrical Journeyman and Contractor (4 years) and Reserve Law Enforcement School (2000 - 2001). Spent 27 years for Muscogee (Creek) Nation as security and law enforcement, 12 years as electrician for SECO Electric Company; three years as electrician for Tulsa County; over six years at Liberty Glass Plant in the decorating section; learned and performed all duties in the department including Regent and Foreman.

Served as a community leader by initiating the Kellyville Creek Nation Indian Community along with other community members to ensure representation of our community. Part of the group who began the Title 9 program at Kellyville Public Schools and served as the Chairman of the Parent Committee. As a result, Native American Indian History was taught as a part of the Kellyville curriculum, a first in Oklahoma.

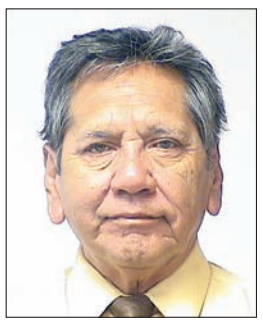
Goals: "My main goal as representative is to serve and be the voice of tribal citizens. I will visit the communities to hear the concerns of citizens. I will work with other members of the Council to meet goals and work to preserve our sovereignty. As a member of the Council, I will provide information to citizens on casino profits and how they are being used. And finally, I want to listen to the elders of our nation for wisdom and our young people, who are the future, so we can be a successful nation."

Frances Morgan
National Council - Creek District

Seat: B
Clan: Wind
Church: Montesoma Indian Baptist Church
Education: A.A. from Bacone Junior College; attended Northeastern Oklahoma State University

Platform: "Housing, healthcare and education seem to be the 'hot topics' every election year. Changes in these programs take years. When changes do occur, a new administration comes in replacing the personnel and starting the whole process over. I want better, too. But, some entities are better managed away from the tribe. During these economic times, I believe our communities will have to rely on our own creativeness and energy to establish enterprises that will make us less dependent on the tribe for our basic needs. Sports and entertainment isn't our priority. Revenue from our casinos is a good thing, but it's not everything. Besides, things aren't better due to so-called revenue. Our greatest assets are our employees who leave because of internal strife or higher pay. As your council person, I will not be shiesty, shaky or shady on voting. Your input will be invaluable and my voting will reflect that."

Dean Tiger
National Council - Creek District



Seat: B
Clan: Wind (Hotvlkvlke)
Ceremonial Ground: Hickory Ground (Loce Vpofv)
Church: Yardeka Baptist Church

Experience: Served nine years on Kellyville Community Executive Committee - five years chairman and four years as vice chairman 2003-2012, Mvskoke language teacher

Platform: "When I declared my candidacy for this office, it was through much prayer and consideration. I did not just make a snap decision. After consulting with family and friends, I weighted how effective my voice would be in the National Council with the understanding that I will be serving the citizens of the Mvskoke Nation and them only. With a new administration in place, I believe we are at the threshold of a momentous opportunity to provide the types of changes and services that our people finally deserve. The preamble of our constitution states this: 'Under the guidance of the Almighty God, our Creator, we are the people of the Mvskoke (Creek) Nation do promote unity.' This sums it up; we are the people. We as a people must engage in this endeavor of seeing that every Mvskoke citizen is treated with the dignity and respect they deserve. Hvnyomet cenponayvt cekicit os yehv vntat fvtconokis."

Barbara Gillespie
National Council - Wagoner District

Seat: B
Clan: Sweet Potato
Tribal Town: Locvpokv
Church: Davis Chapel
Family: Parents are the late Mose Childers and Violet (Williams) Childers, Freeman

Experience: Served 12 years on the National Council; Business owner and operator for 13 years; real estate sales for 35 years; Wagoner County Economic Advisory Board, three years; Coweta Public Schools Indian Education Coordinator, six years.

Platform: "As Wagoner, Rogers and Mayes District representative, I have served as chairperson of the Tribal Affairs, Human Development, Community Services Committee and Vice-chairperson of the Fact Finding Committee of the National Council. Medical care, elder care, education, job training, language, tradition/cultural preservation and most of all economic development are priorities that are facing us today and will be in the future. It is a continuing battle to stay abreast of the ever increasing needs of the people, as our citizenship rolls continue to increase. I bring to the National Council, EXPERIENCE, EDUCATION, LEADERSHIP AND DEDICATION. I ask for your vote and support to elect me to serve as your National Council representative from the Wagoner, Rogers and Mayes District. MVTO."

Mark Randolph
National Council - Wagoner District

Seat: B
Clan: Bird
Tribal Town: Nuyakv
Church: New Joy Indian Baptist
Family: Mother Brenda (Noble) Walker, father Thomas Ray Randolph; maternal grandmother, Gertie (Tiger) Noble; Paternal grandmother, Patsy (Gray) Randolph, maternal great-grandparents: Ben Tiger and Sally (Smith) Tiger; paternal great grandparents: Mose Gray and Manoah (Bemo) Gray

Education: AA in Liberal Arts, Haskell Indian Junior College; Bachelors Degree in Social Work - University of Kansas; Masters of Social Work - University of Kansas

Platform: "Hensci Komakvte. As a young man, I was encouraged to achieve an education then return home to serve our people. As a servant leader, I believe prayer is our greatest strength and people are our number one resource. I believe all citizens should be entitled to services as stated in our tribal nation's constitution, regardless of where they live. I will work to serve all citizens equally and to the best of my ability. I am a strong advocate for our children/youth; they are our key investment for our future. I love and respect our elders; they have made life possible for future generations with hard work, determination, resilience, and prayer. Our nation should provide for our golden age people in every way possible. Mvto for the votes of confidence in the 2011 election, it was a great experience. I am ready to serve the Mvskoke (Creek) people."

Election
Continued from Page 1

PRECINCT VOTERS

ALL PRECINCT VOTERS; ON ELECTION DAY PLEASE VOTE AT THE PRECINCT POLLING SITE WHERE YOU ARE REGISTERED. IF UNSURE, CALL THE ELECTION BOARD OFFICE BEFORE ELECTION DAY AT 918-732-7631 OR 732-7736.

ELECTION DAY, IF YOU VOTE AT A DIFFERENT POLLING SITE OTHER THEN WHERE YOU'RE REGISTERED YOUR NAME WILL NOT BE LISTED ON THAT POLL BOOK. ALL POLLING SITES ARE OPEN 7 A.M. TO 7 P.M.

PRIMARY ELECTION: MAY 5, 2012
POLLS OPEN: 7 A.M.-7 P.M.

ABSENTEE/PRECINCT REGISTRATION RE-OPENS: MAY 10, 2012

GENERAL ELECTION: JULY 7, 2012
POLLS OPEN: 7 A.M.-7 P.M.

ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST DEADLINE: JUNE 14, 2012 - 5 P.M.
ABSENTEE BALLOT MAIL OUT: JUNE 18, 2012

PRECINCT REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
JUNE 27, 2012 - 5 P.M.

Where OK comes TO PLAY

CREEK NATION CASINOS

RIVER SPIRIT Casino

CREEK NATION Casino CHECOTAH

ONEFIRE CASINO

CREEK NATION Casino BRISTOW

CREEK NATION Casino
DUCK CREEK

CREEK NATION Casino
EUFAULA

CREEK NATION Casino
HOLDENVILLE

CREEK NATION Casino
MUSCOGEE

CREEK NATION Casino
OKEMAH

Muscogee Nation News

May 15, 2012
Vol. 42, Issue 10

Official semi-monthly publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

30 years brings big change for MCN Food Distribution

MNN/Gary Fife

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Food Distribution Program celebrated 30 years of service April 30, 2012 with an event featuring dishes made with a variety of commodity food products. Pictured above are a few of the items available at the Okmulgee distribution site.

PR SRT FIRST CLASS
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO 49
STIGLER, OK 74462

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — The foods program you may have known as 'commodities' has evolved; both in name and in the products it delivers. It is probably remembered by many Creek citizens for its bright metal cans of vegetables, processed meats and shortening. There were also brown paper bags of cornmeal and flour, plus blocks of real butter and cheese.

Nowadays, the federal foods program is known as 'USDA Foods' and delivers a variety of foodstuffs, canned and fresh, that is meant to be more nutritional and healthy for families. Gone are the big delivery trucks, replaced by modern stores with long shelves and refrigerated cases.

April 30 was the 30th anniversary of the program at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. It was observed with a review and history of the foods program by staff and Principal Chief George Tiger.

Tiger cited a Creek tradition of helping one another, "If someone was hungry, you fed them," and called himself a 'commodity poster child'.

Customers for the Muscogee Food Distribution program come in once a month to receive their foods, according to Nelson Harjo, warehouse coordinator. Family size determines how much food each recipient may receive. A menu is provided to clients, giving them a guide to what quantities of foods they may choose from the shelves and cases. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has a pre-set list of foods available for its distribution to tribes.

SEE FOODS - 4

Randolph wins Wagnor District Seat B

Rebecca Landsberry
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE — Unofficial results have been reported for the Muscogee (Creek) National Council Seat B elections held Saturday, May 5, 2012.

In Wagoner District, Mark Randolph was elected with 78.1 percent (1,437) of the vote over Barbara Gillespie's 21.9 percent (403).

In Creek District, there will be a run-off between candidates Dode Barnett who captured 27.97 percent (525) and Dean Tiger with 25.36 percent (476) of the vote. General election is set for July 7, 2012.

Larry Thayer captured 21.95 percent (412) of the vote followed by Roman Watashe with 12.79 percent (240) and Frances Morgan with 11.9 percent (224).

All results are unofficial until Friday, May 11, 2012 at 5 p.m.

Violence Against Women Act up for third reauthorization

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) is up for its third reauthorization in Congress.

The VAWA has held significance for Native Americans since it originally passed in 1994 through its provision of funds dedicated to native women's programs, which will be both renewed and increased if the current version of this reauthorization passes.

Perhaps one of the most the important aspect of the reauthorization allows tribal jurisdiction in the instance of non-native on native sexual violence.

If passed, the new version of the act will set a precedent for the recognition of tribal sovereignty by the United States federal government and solve the long standing problem of unprosecuted sexual violence against native women by non-native offenders.

Currently, only the federal government has jurisdiction over these cases. State and local courts have no authority on tribal reservations since they are considered sovereign territory and tribes cannot hear cases involving non-natives because they are considered outside the jurisdiction of tribal courts.

However, these cases commonly go unprosecuted. Jurisdictional complexity as well as limited resources of the federal government are often cited as the reason for this.

SEE VAWA - 4

National Council held Quarterly Session in April

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE — A quarterly session of the National Council was held April 28, 2012.

Topping the agenda was a summary by Principal Chief George Tiger of his 90-day plan and a vote for the position of Second Speaker formerly held by Cherrah Ridge who officially stepped down April 24, 2012.

Two attempts by the council at electing a Second Speaker resulted in a tie of 7-7 between candidates Rep. Adam Jones III and Rep. Robert Hufft. Reps. Kara Medina and Pearl Thomas were absent, leaving 14 representatives in attendance. Speaker Sam Alexander was also included in this vote

The council voted to postpone the election until more representatives were present. According to Alexander the vote will take place during regular session next month or at a planning session before hand. The next session will be held May 19, 2012 since the last Saturday in May falls on Memorial Day weekend.

There is still a chance the council will reach a tie since there are 16 current members. Alexander addressed this issue when asked what the council will do in the event of another tie.

SEE QUARTER - 10

MNN 6 - CULTURE
Ocmulgee to Okmulgee: Muscogee (Creek) Nation Trail of Tears Bicycle Tour

MNN 7 - VETERANS
VASO / Smithsonian exhibit extended through July 6, 2012

MNN 9 - PROGRAMS
Reintegration Program helps former convicts readapt to family life

MNN 11 - PEOPLE
Muscogee (Creek) citizen graduates from Leadership Moore

MNN 12 - AD
2012 MCN CLE

Muscogee Nation News
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Please contact our office for deadline of submissions to be considered for inclusion. ***The Muscogee Nation News*** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate ***The Muscogee Nation News*** in any regard.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed from Stigler, Okla., to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

To submit a change of address or a letter to the editor, call (918) 732-7720 or send e-mail to: wmurphy@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

Cherokees gain new protections for journalists

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

TAHLEQUAH — An "important and historic" new law for journalists has been signed to law by the Cherokee Nation making them the first tribe in Oklahoma to do so.

Principal Chief Bill John Baker signed a new "shield" that would provide new protections to any journalists trying to protect their sources in Cherokee tribal court. The tribe already has a free press law, but those protections did not extend into tribal court and legal proceedings. It strengthens the Free Press Act, it keeps things open and honest, without reprisals, Baker added.

Freedom of the press and protections for sources is a major obstacle faced by Native American journalists across the nation where tribal publications are owned and controlled by tribal governments. Many fear loss of their jobs and being required to disclose the sources of their information. Two tribes, the Navajo Nation, the Osages and the Cherokee Nation have free press laws.

The new Cherokee law does have its limitations. It does not apply to defamation, libel or slander cases. It also does not cover court proceedings at which no other witnesses can provide the same information.

Cherokee Phoenix Executive Editor Bryan Pollard said the law was, "Most important. It allows us to assure sources we won't reveal them." He called the shield law, "Overdue and a step forward, granting us the same protections as mainstream journalists."

Cherokee Tribal Council member Chuck Hoskins authored the legislation saying the new shield law applies to all journalists, not just those from tribal publications, in cases heard in tribal court.

Twelve years ago the Cherokee Nation approved its Independent Press Act, which granted First Amendment rights to journalists working for tribal papers.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In re the marriage of: EVANS,)
CORENTHEA ALYSE EVANS,)
Petitioner,)
vs.) Case No. DV-2012-18
STEVEN CLARK EVANS,) Before Gregory Bigler
Respondent.) Judge of the District Court

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Steven Clark Evans

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for divorce in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. DV-2012-18, styled In re the Marriage of Corenthea Evans, Petitioner and Steven Clark Evans, Respondent. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to a *Decree of Dissolution of Marriage* from you based on the grounds of incompatibility.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear at the hearing on the 22nd day of May 2012 at 1:30 o'clock P.m. Failure to respond and/or attend will result in the allegations contained in the *Petition* being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in his *Petition.*

Given under my hand and seal this 19th day of April, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District

By: Shalon McClenathan
(Deputy)

(SEAL)

McIntosh County seeks CASA volunteers

Media Release
McIntosh Co., CASA

EUFAULA — Currently, in McIntosh County, there are children who, through no fault of their own, have suffered abuse and neglect and are, living with relatives, foster parents, or in youth shelters, while the Department of Human Services and the court system deal with their cases.

These children often have no one, outside the system, to speak up for them in court and some have even fallen "through the cracks" once inside the system.

If you care about what happens to these children, enough to want to do something about it, then C.A.S.A. (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Southeast Oklahoma would like to give you that opportunity.

CASAs are ordinary people who are willing to stand up for an abused and neglected child. CASA volunteers you official training from professionals in the field to get them familiar with the court and child welfare system and other important aspects of the cases including child development, interviewing techniques and cultural competency. They are then qualified to be court appointed by a judge.

Volunteers will be given the tools and personal support needed to aid in the search for as much information as possible about a child in order to achieve an objective viewpoint of his/her welfare.

For more information, call CASA of S.E. Oklahoma in Eufaula, at 918-689-9200 or for more information go to: Oklahomacasa.org or casaforchildren.org

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF:)
NELSON HARJO,)
Petitioner,)
vs.) Case No. DV 2011-129
SUSAN CHRISTINE HARJO,) Gregory Bigler
Respondent.) Judge of the District Court

DISTRICT COURT
FILED
2012 MAY 3 PM 3 05
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: **Susan Christine Harjo**

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for divorce in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. DV-2011-129, styled In re the Marriage of: Nelson Harjo, Petitioner vs. Susan Christine Harjo, Respondent. The action alleges that the Petitioner is entitled to a *Decree of Dissolution of Marriage* from you based on the grounds of incompatibility.

You are notified that you must appear at the hearing on the 19th day of June, 2012 at 1:30 p.m. Failure to attend will result in the allegations contained in the Petition being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of Petitioner as prayed for in the *Petition.*

Given under my hand and seal this 3rd day of May, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District

By: Debie King
(Deputy)

(SEAL)
Approved:
Kurt K. Townsend, MCN#642
Shannon L. Prescott, MCN#165
Courtney L. Eagan-Smith, MCN#543
Gregory N. Hope, MCN#641
MCN Citizen Legal Services
114 N. Grand Ave, North Lobby
Okmulgee, OK 74447
(918) 756-1112
(918) 756-1113
Attorneys for Petitioner

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
STATE OF OKLAHOMA OKMULGEE COUNTY
The undersigned hereby certifies this instrument to be a full, true and correct copy of the orginal.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF:)
T.T., DOB: 08/25/2006)
N.T., DOB: 06-16-01)
A.T., DOB: 03-28-03)
Alleged Deprived Children.)

DISTRICT COURT
FILED
2012 MAR 30 PM 1 57
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

NOTICE OF HEARING TO:

Wesley Taylor, Natural Father

YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that a Petition to Terminate Parental Rights has been filed against you in the above-styled and numbered cause and will be heard in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the 19th day of June 2012 at 9:30 a.m..

YOU ARE HEREBY INFORMED that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the children remain wards of the Court and custody be continued in the Children and Family Services Administration for continued foster placement of possible pre-adoptive placement. **YOU ARE FUTHER INFORMED** that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.

IF YOU FAIL TO ATTEND THIS HEARING, YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS MAY BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED AND YOU MAY BE CITED FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT AND A BENCH WARRANT MAY BE ISSUED FOR YOUR ARREST.

JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

MCN District Court hosts 10th annual Continuing Legal Education Seminar

Media Release
MCN District Court

TULSA — The 10th annual Muscogee (Creek) Nation "Doing Business in Indian Country" Continuing Legal Education Seminar will take place May 17-18, 2012.

This year's event will be held at the River Spirit Convention Center located just north of the River Spirit Casino on Riverside Drive in Tulsa, Okla.

The 10th annual CLE will feature renowned Indian law speakers and legal educators discussing a host of hotbed issues affecting Indian Country.

The event will offer ten (10) hours of OBA approved CLE credit which includes one hour of ethics at a bargain price of $200 per registrant.

Registration forms can be accessed online at www.muscogeecreektribalcourt.org. For additional information, contact the Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court at 918-758-1400.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In re the marriage of:)
MILLIE HILL,)
Petitioner,)
vs.) Case No. DV-2012-16
ALVIN HULBUTTA,)
Respondent.)

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Alvin Hulbutta

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for divorce in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. DV-2012-, styled In re the Marriage of Mille Hill, Petitioner and Alvin Hulbutta, Respondent. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to a *Decree of Dissolution of Marriage* from you based on the grounds of incompatibility.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear at the hearing on the 22nd day of May 2012 at 1:30 o'clock P.m. Failure to respond and/or attend will result in the allegations contained in the *Petition* being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in his *Petition.*

Given under my hand and seal this 23rd day of Feb., 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District

By: Debie King
(Deputy)

(SEAL)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF:)
DIANE COOPER,)
Petitioner)
vs.) Case No. DV-2010-120
JOHN COOPER,)
Respondent.)

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: **John Cooper**

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for divorce in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. DV-2010-120, styled In re the Marriage of Diane Cooper, Petitioner and John Cooper, Respondent, *Application for Civil Indirect Contempt*. The action alleges that the Petitioner is entitled to a judgment from you based on the grounds of indirect contempt for the total amount of $75,000.00.

You are notified that you must appear at the hearing on the 24th day of May, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. Failure to attend will result in the allegations contained in the *Application* being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in her *Application.*

Given under my hand and seal this 21st day of March, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk

By: Shalon McClenathan
(Deputy)

(SEAL)

Approved:
Kurt K. Townsend, MCN#642
Shannon L. Prescott, MCN#165
Courtney L. Eagan-Smith, MCN#543
Gregory N. Hope, MCN#641
MCN Citizen Legal Services
114 N. Grand Ave, North Lobby
Okmulgee, OK 74447

CREEK NATION COMMUNITY CALENDAR

'Creeks Got Talent' to hold auditions through May

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is on the hunt for the greatest undiscovered talent in Creek country to be part of the 38th annual Muscogee (Creek) Festival.

We are looking for a variety of acts including: singers, dancers, comedians, musical groups to compete for the top prize of headlining at the River Spirit Mystic River Lounge.

'Creeks Got Talent' participants must meet the following requirements:

• Must be Muscogee (Creek) or Euchee/Yuchi Indian.

• Must be at least 10 years old (Ages 10-105)

• Must come to auditions dressed and ready to perform act. 'Creeks Got Talent' will provide a CD player and piano (with accompanist), all other needed materials are to be provided by participant.

• Must be available to participate in a dress rehearsal during the day of Saturday, June 16, 2012, at the MCN Mound Auditorium.

• Must be available to participate in the final show on the evening of Saturday, June 16, 2012, at the MCN Mound Auditorium.

Audition times will be Saturday, May 19 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at the River Spirit Events Center located at 8330 Riverside Pkwy., in Tulsa. An additional audition is set for Saturday, May 26 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at the MCN Elderly Nutrition Center in Okmulgee.

For more information, please call 918-756-2249.

Creek hymn singings beginning May 17

OKMULGEE — The Okmulgee Elderly Nutrition Center will host monthly Creek hymn singings every third Thursday beginning May 17, 2012 from 7-9 p.m. All are welcome.

For more information, contact Tecumseh Jackson at 918-752-0952.

Miss Muscogee Scholarship applications due May 18, 2012

OKMULGEE — Muscogee (Creek) ladies (must be full Creek citizen - 1⁄4 blood or more) between the ages of 14-22 are invited to compete in the 2012 Muss Muscogee Nation Scholarship Pageant.

There will be two divisions of competition for royalty including Miss Muscogee Nation and Junior Miss Muscogee Nation.

The crowned Miss will receive a total of $4,000 in prize and scholarship money and the crowned Junior Miss will receive $1,000 in prize money.

Areas of judging include poise/personality, traditional dress, talent, speech/question, personal interview, essay and written test.

Applications can be found online at www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov and must be mailed or hand-delivered by the deadline for applications, 5 p.m., on Friday, May 18, 2012.

For more information, call 918-732-7724 or toll free at 1-800-205-3705.

Benefit co-ed t-ball tournament set for May 19

SEMINOLE — A benefit adult co-ed t-ball tournament is set for May 19, 2012 at the Mekusukey Mission Fields in Seminole, Okla.

The deadline for entry is May 15, 2012. Entry fee is $75.

T-shirt prizes will be given to first and second place winners. Teams must be 12-man rosters (six men and six women).

For more information, contact Shelia Smith at 405-380-4349, J.B. Smith at 405-637-9985 or James Smith at 405-382-9162.

All proceeds will go towards medical expenses.

Eufaula hosts Men's Health Summit June 6, 2012

EUFAULA — The Eufaula Indian Health Center will host the 5th annual Men's Health Summit Wednesday, June 6, 2012 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at the EIC Skate Zone, located at 800 Birkes Rd., in Eufaula.

Lunch will be provided and men are allowed to bring wives and or sisters, however, T-shirts will only be provided for the men. Participants must pre-register and attend the session to receive lunch, T-shirt and enter drawings.

Registration forms may be picked up at the Eufaula Indian Health Clinic or local community center and must be returned no later than May 23, 2012.

Registration will begin at 8 a.m. For more information, please email: Lucas.Taylor@creekhealth.org

Solid Rock to host Indian taco sales

GLENPOOL — Solid Rock Indian Baptist Church, located at 841 E. 141st St., in Glenpool will host an Indian taco sale Saturday, May 19 and Saturday, June 16, 2012 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Order are $7 for an Indian taco, drink and dessert. "To Go" orders will be available.

For more information, e-mail: dan@workspaceresource.com

Spirit of Oklahoma Football Camp set for July 6-7

WELEETKA — The second annual Spirit of Oklahoma Football Camp is set for July 6-7, 2012 at the Weleetka Football Field in Weleetka.

University of Oklahoma Sooner Football great Jamelle Holieway and friends will be conducting the one-day camp for youth ages 8-16.

The camp is geared to host youth within the 35-40 mile radius of Weleetka.

Last year, the camp was host to 106 youth and the numbers are expected to double for 2012.

For more information, contact Sandi Golden 405-786-2635 or 918-623-6437.

Mvskoke Language Program to host immersion camp in July

OKMULGEE — The Mvskoke Language Program is currently planning an immersion camp for kindergarten thru fifth grade students.

The camp will be July 9-13, 2012 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Human Development Building.

For more information or for an application, call (918) 732-7724.

Graduate edition deadline set for Friday, May 25

Media Release
Muscogee Nation News

OKMULGEE — The *Muscogee Nation News* will be featuring 2012 Muscogee (Creek) Nation graduates in an upcoming summer edition.

Graduate submissions should include full name of graduate, school, university or technical institution, parents, ceremonial ground, church, tribal town, clan and any awards/accomplishments (150 word limit).

A recent digital photo should also be included with graduate's information, which must be submitted via e-mail no later than Friday, May 25, 2012. Submissions should be sent to gfife@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

For more information, please contact Gary Fife at 918-732-7643.

MUSCOGEE NATION
38th annual Festival 2012

FRI 6 • 8		**SAT 6 • 23**	
7:00 p.m.	Miss/Jr. Miss Muscogee Nation Pageant	8:00 a.m.	Golf Tournament–Fountainhead
			5k Walk/Run
FRI 6 • 15			Fast Pitch Softball Tournament
6:00 p.m.	Slow Pitch Softball Tournament		Horseshoe Tournament
		9:00	Youth 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament
SAT 6 • 16			Children's Corn Stalk Shoot
8:00 a.m.	Slow Pitch Softball Tournament		Volleyball Tournament
9:00	Adult 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament		INFR Rodeo–SLACK
11:00	Muscogee Royalty Reception	9:00-Noon	Safety Seat Check–MCN Complex
	–Council House Museum	9:30-4:30	Council House Indian Art Festival
7:00 p.m.	Creeks Got Talent–Okmulgee High School		–Council House Museum
	Auditorium	10:00 a.m.	Festival Parade, 6th Street
SUN 6 • 17			Children's Fun Fair
8:00 a.m.	Slow Pitch Softball Tournament–Finals	11:00	Arts & Crafts/Food Vendors
		2:00-6:00 p.m.	Creek Hymn/Gospel Singing
THU 6 • 21			–MCN Complex
Noon	Cornstalk Range Open–MCN Complex	3:00	Traditional Corn Stalk Shoot
7:30 p.m.	Stomp Dance–MCN Complex		–MCN Complex
		6:00-8:30	All-Indian Rodeo Finals
FRI 6 • 22		7:00	The TEMPTATIONS
8:00 a.m.	Golf Tournament–Fountainhead	9:00	GLADYS KNIGHT
	HWY 150, Checotah, OK		
	Junior Olympics–Harmon Stadium	**SUN 6 • 24**	
	Senior Citizens Activities–Senior	8:00 a.m.	Fast Pitch Softball Tournament–Finals
	Housing, Polokse Circle		
9:00 a.m.	Traditional Skills–MCN Complex		
10:00 a.m.	Children's Fun Fair		
5:00 p.m.	Arts & Crafts/Food Vendors		
6:00	Fast Pitch Softball Tournament		
6:00-8:30	INFR Rodeo		
9:00	LIVE ENTERTAINMENT TBA		

All events, unless otherwise noted, will occur at the Claude Cox Omniplex & Bob Arrington Rodeo Arena (behind MCN Travel Plaza/Burger King, NW corner of HWY 75 & SH-56 Loop intersection–Okmulgee, OK)

*ALL DATES AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Awepvks! (ah-wē′ buks) Everyone come!

918.732.7992 | tourism@MuscogeeNation-nsn.gov

www.MuscogeeNation-nsn.gov

Tourism & Recreation

All Festival visitors agree that entry into any of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival events constitutes consent for the MCN Tourism & Recreation Department to use any film, photographs, video or reproduction of image and/or voice bearer for any purpose whatsoever without any payment to the visitor. Visitors shall not sell, dispense, or consume any form of illegal drugs or alcoholic beverages during any MCN Festival related events. Pets are not allowed at any MCN Festival related events. Thank you for your cooperation. Mvto!

Foods

Continued from Page 1

MNN/Gary Fife

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Food Distribution Warehouse Coordinator Nelson Harjo holds a block of the famed 'commodity cheese' available through the tribal program.

The nutritional value of the distributions has also improved, Harjo said, "Some of things like the corn syrup, some of the stuff that was high in sodium, high in sugars—those things were taken away from the food package because we are a nutritional supplement program. So they wanted to provide the healthiest choices they possible could. We're trying to get away from a lot of the canned goods now and they're going to a lot more of the fresh goods. We have an incredible variety of fresh foods and vegetables now."

One refrigerated display case contained beef roasts, frozen turkey breasts, split chicken breasts, and ground beef. In the next were dairy products including the well-known blocks of cheese that have been a mainstay of the program. That's a food Harjo hopes will never disappear, "Me, personally, I hope it never does because that's probably one of the things that people look forward to the most." Even that popular block of cheese has undergone some change, it is now available in the regular old block or a sliced version is now on the shelves.

The fresh vegetables are delivered once a week, and have proven immensely popular. Harjo pointed to mounds of cauliflower, broccoli and tomatoes that he says disappear in a very short time, "Right now, we are only allowed to get in one produce truck a week. Once it comes in for the week, well, that's all the produce we have. What you see before you, this could be gone in a matter of an hour, two hours." The staff tries to make the allocation last for the week.

Attitudes towards the foods allocation program are positive, Harjo relates. Any social stigma attached to getting a food subsidy like this has been replaced by having a tribal store where the clientele are more comfortable.

"I guess it's the whole store concept. You don't have to worry about somebody watching you pay with food stamps at Wal-Mart or Warehouse Market or wherever you may get your groceries from. They know they can come in here, and they can shop and you're the same as everybody else," Harjo said.

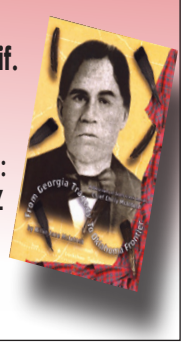
The Foods Distribution program will see about 2,300 participants served through its monthly program. Those people might get a quick Mvskoke language lesson while shopping. A majority of the foods have placards bearing food names in tribal language and in English. It works for the most part, but Harjo admits, finding a translation for 'spaghetti sauce' has not been achieved yet.

From Georgia Tragedy to Oklahoma Frontier
A biography of Scots Creek Indian Chief Chilly McIntosh
by Billie Jane McIntosh, author of *Ak-ko-kee, American*

- Life and death of Chief William McIntosh, Jr.
- Life of eldest son Chilly McIntosh
- Family tree narrative, photos, maps, documents
- Muscogee Creek tribal history 1800-1875 Alabama, Georgia and Indian Territory

"Best overview and description of the murder of William McIntosh, Jr. - materials not seen before."
-Dr. Gary L. McIntosh, Calif.

Call American History Press at 888-521-1789 to purchase a copy or for a signed copy, include $19 plus postage to: Billie Jane McIntosh, 2315 W. Trail Blazer, Cottonwood, AZ 86326 or call 928-649-9797.



VAWA

Continued from Page 1

In 2010, a report by the Government Accountability Office found that from 2005-2009, U.S. attorneys declined to prosecute 67 percent of sexual violence cases occurring on tribal lands.

Almost equal to the rates at which federal prosecutors decline to prosecute these cases, are the number of cases of sexual violence against natives. A regional survey done by the University of Oklahoma showed that nearly three out of five (60 percent) Native American women have been assaulted by their spouses or intimate partners.

An analysis funded by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) found that, on some reservations, native women are murdered at 10 times the national average. A nationwide survey done by the NIJ found that one in three American Indian women will be raped in her lifetime.

The bill is still facing opposition in Congress despite these statistics. The original version of the reauthorization passed in the Senate April 26, 2012 by a vote of 68-31, however, it is expected to face heavier opposition in the House.

An anonymous government aide gave more insight as to how the bill may play out in the next step of the legislative process.

"The House is actually producing its own version of the bill. They believe it will be available starting the second week of May," they said.

There are several partisan specific grievances with the bill including portions that provide further protection for Native Americans, undocumented immigrants and other social groups.

The portions of the reauthorization specific to Native Americans that have been met with opposition are: the allowance of tribal jurisdiction in cases of non-native on native domestic violence, and the increase and reauthorization of funds to native domestic violence programs.

Originally, the tribal portion of the reauthorization was its own bill called the Stand Up Against Native Violence (SAVE). The anonymous aide explained why SAVE was combined in the VAWA reauthorization with contested provisions for these other groups.

"It's a slow year for legislation and all those bills moving through, there are still very specific groups of victims that are still very much at risk and they wanted to address that with the reauthorization," they said.

In written correspondence between Sen. Tom Coburn (OK) and MCN Family Violence Prevention Project Coordinator Shawn Partridge, Coburn explained his position on the funding provisions for sexual violence programs in the VAWA reauthorization.

"As a practicing physician, I have seen firsthand the effects of domestic violence and I have a desire to protect the victims of this serious crime. I supported the VAWA when it was reauthorized in 2005 and I worked to ensure the acceptance of amendments that strengthened the act. I must caution, however, that I oppose increased funding for any program that is not paid for by equivalent reductions elsewhere in the budget," said Coburn.

A joint statement sent by Coburn and Sen. Mike Lee (UT) further outlined their objections to the funding portion of the reauthorization stating that said provisions would be an imposition of the federal government on state's rights.

"Domestic violence laws are state laws, and nowhere in the Constitution is the federal government tasked with providing basic funding to states, localities and private organizations to operate programs aimed at victims of state crimes such as domestic violence. Far too often, Congress infringes upon the rights of the people and the states by overreaching in its legislative efforts," their statement said.

Further funding-based objections by the senators to the reauthorization cited the national debt, documentation issues and lack of accountability for the usage of funds as well as other grievances.

"There are several VAWA grant programs that are so broad that they duplicate on another, providing multiple opportunities for grantees to double dip into federal funds. In addition, the Family Violence Prevention and Service Act (FVPSA), which pre-dates the original VAWA legislation, authorized several programs through HHS (the Department of Health and Human Services) aimed at reducing domestic violence and helping victims," their statement said.

Partridge who also serves as Vice President on the board of the Native Alliance Against Violence (NAAV), addressed this "double dip" concern.

"We have unique needs as tribal people that the state coalition and the state agencies and programs a lot of times do not recognize and understand. They are just not able to understand the unique needs that we have and our victims have as well," said Partridge.

Partridge went on by explaining the need for further funding to tribal coalitions.

"Every state has its own coalition against domestic and sexual violence, but there is only like 20 tribal coalitions. States have different funding sources to help maintain their coalitions but tribal coalitions are very limited in their funding so there is a disparity there," said Partridge.

She described the struggle tribes have with what little funds they are currently provided.

"The states do not compete with each other for their coalition funding. However, the tribes have to compete with one another for their funding," said Partridge.

Coburn and Lee's statement also addressed the new portion of the VAWA pertaining to tribal jurisdiction over non-native offenders who are accused of sexual violence against a native on tribal land.

In their statement, the senators expressed their concern that the United States Bill of Rights does not apply in Indian courts.

The reauthorization does however, require tribes to guarantee Indian and non-Indian defendants the same Constitutional rights to counsel that would be available in federal or state court, some of which include:

- The right against unreasonable search and seizures
- The right to have licensed legal counsel provided at the tribe's expense
- The right to be tried by a judge with sufficient legal training who is licensed to practice law
- The right to not be put in jeopardy twice for the same offense
- The right to not be compelled to testify against oneself in a criminal case
- The right against excessive bail, excessive fines and cruel and unusual punishments
- The right to a trial by a jury of not less than six persons when accused of an offense punishable by imprisonment
- The right to petition a federal court for habeas corpus to challenge the legality of one's detention by the tribe

Coburn and Lee's statement lists and addresses these protections.

" S. 1925 [VAWA] includes language that says: 'in a criminal jurisdiction, the participating tribe shall provide to the defendant… all other rights whose protection is necessary under the Constitution of the United States in order for Congress to recognize and affirm the inherent power of the participating tribe to exercise special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction over the defendant.' Still we are not certain this is enough and are afraid it will be subject to future court challenges," their statement said.

The senators' statement also offered what they believe to be a possible alternative solution to solve the issue of these cases going unprosecuted.

"American citizens who commit specific crimes, we believe, should deal with the bigger problem by holding the Department of Justice and local U.S. attorneys accountable for not prosecuting these cases," their statement said.

Another problem with federal prosecution of these crimes is that prosecutors typically can only charge a felony offense against an Indian or non-Indian defendant when the victim's injuries rise to the level of serious bodily injury, which may require life-threatening injury or permanent disfigurement before said charges can be filed. Currently a six-month maximum is all that is allotted for lesser offenses.

The Senate version of VAWA addresses this by increasing the maximum sentence from six months to one year for an assault by striking, beating or wounding. An instance where there is substantial bodily injury to spouse, intimate or dating partner would be considered a five-year offense. The Code would also be amended to consider strangling or suffocation of a spouse or partner as an offense punishable by 10 years.

Sarah Deer, assistant professor at William Mitchell College of Law, explained how tribes who do not have traditional reservation territories, will be able to exercise jurisdiction if the original version of the reauthorization passes.

"Where that jurisdiction applies is on trust land. As long as it is on tribally-owned land, tribal trust land or allotments, basically anything the federal government has identified as Indian country," said Deer.

Under the current version of the reauthorization, tribes will only have jurisdiction over a non-native who is accused of sexual assault against a native if the accused:

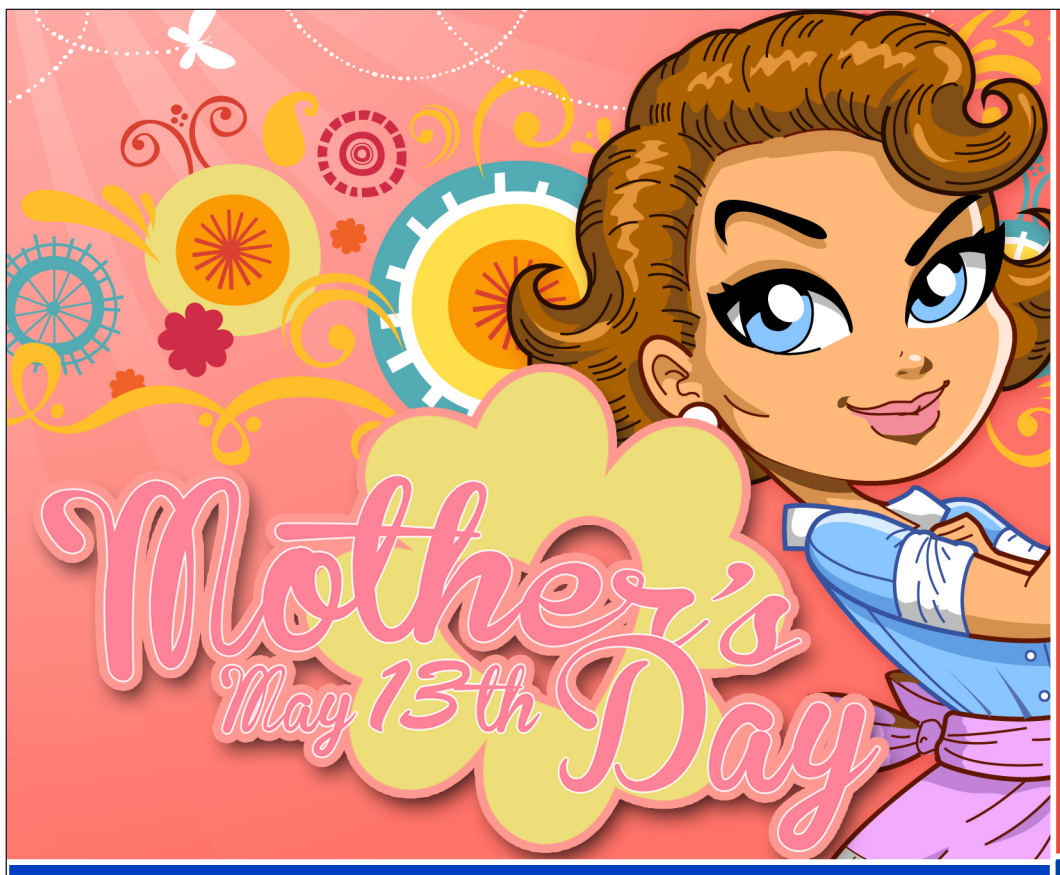
1. Resides in the Indian country of the participating tribe
2. Is employed in the Indian country of the participating tribe; or
3. Is a spouse or intimate partner of a member of the participating tribe

This means even after this version of the reauthorization passes, if the accused non-native does not meet one of these criteria and: lives outside of Indian territory, does not work within the tribe's jurisdiction, has no prior relationship with the accuser, and does not commit a crime of sexual violence, the tribe will still not be able to prosecute said non-native.

The anonymous government aide explained this limited protection.

"We're trying to make small steps forward to eradicating crime in Indian country, we're just trying to make incremental changes right now as it is difficult in Congress to get anything through," they said.

We at the Muscogee Nation News are committed to fair balanced and accurate reporting. The views and opinions expressed within our stories belong to the sources they are attributed to and do not necessarily reflect the views of the MNN staff.



Noon - 5:00 PM

(Ladies' only) $10 Match Play
5 - $50 free play + 1 - $250 cash prize drawing every 1/2 hour from 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM. At 4:00 PM, 5 - $50 free play drawings, 1 - $250 cash drawing + 2 - $500 cash drawings

Mother's Day Bingo Session

$8 pays $300. Each lady will receive a complimentary regular session paper pack.

3:00 PM - 10:00 PM

$10 Match Play
Hot Seat prize drawings every 1/2 hour from 3:30 PM - 8:00 PM for $100 free plays, and cash prizes from $250 - $1,000

Memorial Day Bingo Special

2 for price of 1 on paper and electronic Early Bird, Regular Session, and Specials Packs. $10 pays $500. Senior Citizen's 55 & older receive one (1) complimentary paper regular session pack. $1,000 Bonanza must go!

Each poker players seated in a live action poker game at midnight in the month of May will receive a drawing ticket. We will draw one $100 winner and one $500 winner every Friday night in May at 9:00pm. (must be present to win)

See you June 9th at Mudstock

mccys.org

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CREEK NATION Casino MUSCOGEE

Euchee language students take top honors at language Fair

Submitted by Dr. Richard Grounds
Euchee Language Program

NORMAN — Twenty-eight Euchee (Yuchi) language students excelled at the 10th annual Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair April 2-3, 2012 at the University of Oklahoma campus in Norman. The children received first place for a book they wrote in the Euchee language, which includes their own imaginative stories about their pets, family adventures and favorite characters like Batman.

The students were also very excited to take home four trophies at the fair this year for presentations they gave solely in the Euchee language. They received second place in the 3-5 grade category for a presentation on how to play Tak'Â@, a traditional game known as Euchee football.

The high school group earned second place for their performance called 'the dinner party.'

The youngest group, ages 2-6, received second place for a skit depicting an ancient Euchee legend in which a wolf challenges a turtle to a race over four hills. In this legend, the turtle outsmarts the wolf by asking his friends to wait on each hill so that when the wolf comes over the hills he will see the turtle ahead of him and think he is losing. In the children's version, three little wolves challenged eight turtles to a race and the wolves quit the race on the fourth hill because they could see that they were going to lose.

As a group, the students performed 'zAladE', which is a Euchee version of the classic song, "Lean On Me." The performance of the song was a great hit with the audience, as the children leaned on one another, waving their arms, and snapping their fingers as they sang. The students were very committed to learning the song, which meant mastering 35 lines of Euchee lyrics. Their efforts were rewarded with a trophy for third place in the song category.

This year the Language Fair involved 659 students from 50 different Native American language programs throughout the state. The Euchee program has entered the fair for the last seven years as an incentive and encouragement to the children and youth who are learning the language. Many Euchee parents and some tribal elders attended the fair in support of the young learners.

The Euchee students are part of the after school language immersion program that is held daily at the Euchee House on South Main Street in Sapulpa. The children and youth are making great strides in learning the Euchee language and are using it on their own at home, school, church and ceremonial grounds.

The Euchee/Yuchi language is unique and is identified by linguists as a language isolate, meaning it is unrelated to any other language. Today there are only four remaining first-language speakers of Euchee. These fluent elders work daily with young learners at the Yuchi House to create new fluent speakers.

The Euchee (Yuchi) Language Project also took part in a special honoring at the state capitol April 9, 2012 in which the House of Representatives gave a proclamation in support of revitalizing Native American languages in Oklahoma. Euchee elders and instructors gave a short presentation in the State Capitol Building as part of the event.

The Euchee Language Project would like to invite citizens to attend the upcoming Euchee Language Bowl on Saturday, June 2, 2012 at the Sapulpa High School auditorium. This event, inspired by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's annual Challenge Bowl, will recognize children and youth who are learning their Euchee language and culture. Teams and individuals will compete for prizes and will be asked questions in the language that encompass Euchee history, culture, and contemporary life. All participants will be rewarded for their wonderful efforts to learn the Euchee language and culture. To see videos and photos of their performances, visit: facebook.com/YuchiLanguage or www.YuchiLanguage.org.

Call 918-224-6481 for more information.

To become involved in learning the Euchee language, the schedule of classes is as follows:

- Children/Youth Classes, Monday through Friday, after school to 5:30 p.m.
- Community/Parent Classes, Mondays at 6 p.m., and Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.
- Staff/Adult Classes, Monday through Friday 10 a.m.- noon

Photo Submitted/Richard Grounds
Pictured above are the Euchee / Yuchi participants of the 2012 Native Languages Fair held in Norman, Okla.

Ocmulgee to Okmulgee: Muscogee (Creek) Nation Trail of Tears Bicycle Tour set for June 2-23, 2012

Media Release
MCN Museum, Cultural Center & Archives

OKMULGEE — Three words, "Ocmulgee to Okmulgee" pack an encyclopedia of history for the Muscogee people and make an appropriate name for the commemorative bicycle tour taking place in June.

The staff members of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Museum, Cultural Center, & Archives, Program Manager/Museum Director and Curator John Beaver and Asst. Director Justin Bruce Giles are spearheading the event through collaboration with many agencies including: the National Park Service; the Alabama Historical Commission; the Historic Chattahoochee Commission; Fort Gibson Historic Site; Let's Move!; Americans for Indian Opportunity; and the National Museum of the American Indian.

Beaver will be the lead rider in the Ocmulgee to Okmulgee: Muscogee (Creek) Nation Trail of Tears Bicycle Tour as he visits sites from the well known to those off the beaten path to present the history and stories of Muscogee culture in the Southeast.

Giles will be manning the mobile support vehicle and documenting the ride as they traverse the Trail of Tears. Together, they will present a "living classroom" experience that will be shared in online blogs, a website that will host information about all of the sites visited during the project, and later in the museum.

The tour will commence June 2 at the Ocmulgee Mounds in Macon, Ga., and will conclude the weekend of June 23 at the 2012 Muscogee Festival in Okmulgee, Okla.

Some of the sites to be visited, such as the Ocmulgee Mounds near Macon, Ga., tie into ancient Mvskoke history.

The project team will also visit original tvlwv (town) sites and battle sites. One goal is to pay homage to and recognize our ancestors who made the difficult journey of removal. Fort Mitchell is on the tour as a beginning point of the forced removals to Indian Territory.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizens and the public are invited to join in the bicycle tour or to make the journey by automobile, following the itinerary and maps. For those who may be interested in riding during various parts of the tour, please be advised that most riding days will consist of a minimum of 50 mile distances in summer heat and humidity. Some days, the rides and distances covered may be longer in duration in order to meet travel itineraries. All participants are responsible for their own travel and lodging. All participants waive, release, and hold harmless the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, employees and volunteers, and all other sponsors, their representatives and successors from all claims and liabilities that may arise from this event.

From the Ocmulgee Mounds, the tour will progress from Georgia to Alabama, heading west to Fort Mitchell across portions of the Old Federal Road, before continuing west to Montgomery, Fort Toulouse and Horseshoe Bend. The route will then move into Tennessee and take old military routes through Arkansas, arriving at Fort Gibson as the western terminal of the forced march.

MNN/Gary Fife
John Beaver, Director of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Museum, Cultural Center and Archives, will be biking from the ancestral homelands in Macon, Ga., to Okmulgee, Okla., June 2-23, 2012.

Event planning has built many inter-agency relationship bridges that Beaver and Giles believe will lead to a Muscogee presence and perspective previously lacking in the history and commentary surrounding our ancestral homelands, the removal process, and the continuity of our ancient Muscogee culture within our current day environment. This can benefit our own people as well as the general public.

"Telling our stories" has already been identified as one of the primary goals of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Museum, so it seems very appropriate for the museum staff to be making this journey.

"Stories can be shared in many ways," explains Beaver, "but we want to show our people and others that a museum can be about learning history through activity."

The project team has included Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tourism and Recreation to assist with community involvement, Veterans Affairs, and the Division of Health, which is promoting the healthy eating and fitness aspect of the bike tour.

The tour project will be part of Let's Move! In Indian Country and Let's Move! Museums as a fitness initiative and is meant to heighten awareness and promote a lifestyle that can help reduce the number of new cases of heart disease, diabetes, and childhood obesity within the Native American community.

Anyone wanting to follow the tour as it progresses can do so on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation website, the Museum website, http://www.muscogeenationmuseum.org/ and the Facebook page for the Museum.

Additional information will be added at these sites post-ride.

Confirmed Tour Stops:

June 2 – Ocmulgee Mounds, Macon, Ga.

June 3 – Fort Mitchell, Alabama

June 9 – Fort Toulouse, Alabama

June 11 – Horseshoe Bend, Alabama

June 22 – Fort Gibson Historic Site, Oklahoma

June 23 – Okmulgee, Oklahoma

A send-off for the riders is set for May 31, 2012 at 10 a.m., at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Capitol Complex in Okmlugee.

For more information contact John Beaver at 918-549-2428 or email: jbeaver@muscogeenation-nsn.gov or Justin Bruce Giles at 918-549-2429 or email: jgiles@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

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VASO / Smithsonian exhibit extended through July 6, 2012

Media Release
MCN Museum & Cultural Center

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Museum & Cultural Center announced extended dates for the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) Native Words, Native Warriors exhibition. The exhibition will be on display in the Veterans' Building located on the MCN Complex through July 6, 2012. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

Native Words, Native Warriors honors Native American soldiers who developed coded messages using their Native languages in WWI and WWII. While the Code Talkers' messages were never deciphered and provided an invaluable weapon on the battlefield, their contributions were not recognized until the U.S. government declassified the Navajo and Comanche code talker programs decades after WWII. The exhibition also showcases other tribes that participated in the code talker program such as the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Assiniboine, Cherokee, Choctaw, Cree, Crow, Dakota, Lakota, Kiowa, Oneida, Pawnee, and Seminole.

The Smithsonian NMAI and the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Services (SITES), with generous support of Elizabeth Hunter Solomon, produced the exhibition. Additional support has been provided by the Smithsonian's Women's Committee and the AMB Foundation.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Museum & Cultural Center and the Muscogee Veterans Affairs Services Office (VASO) have also developed a supplemental multi-banner display, which further honors our own Muscogee (Creek) warriors and their service in the U.S. military. These banners showcase Muscogee (Creek) soldiers who have served, and continue to serve, in every branch of the military throughout every American war and conflict to date.

For visitors who have already seen the exhibit, VASO has added additional banner displays and erected two new memorial statues recognizing our "Fallen Soldiers" and "Prisoners of War." VASO is a venue that compliments the Native Words, Native Warriors exhibition as it is dedicated to telling the history and stories of our Muscogee (Creek) veterans. VASO houses display cases with military memorabilia, photographs, medals and other objects donated or loaned by the friends and families of Muscogee (Creek) veterans.

The Native Words, Native Warriors exhibition is open from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Additional operational hours have been added to view the exhibition on the following Saturdays:

- May 19, 2012 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- June 23, 2012 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

All adult and School groups are invited and encouraged to come visit the FREE exhibition. For more information please call VASO: (918) 732-7744.

Native Words, Native Warriors website: http://nmai.si.edu/education/codetalkers/

Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian: http://nmai.si.edu/home/

STAND AND DEFEND:
MUSCOGEE WOMEN IN UNIFORM
Lora P. Bowden
WAAC
WW II
Anna King
U.S. Army
Korea
Tsiannina Hounarmand
U.S. Army
Vietnam
Betty D. Prince
U.S. Marine Corps
Korea
Maggie Parks
U.S. Navy
Global War On Terrorism
Nancy M. Starr
U.S. Army
Cold War
(Left to Right)
Carol Muniz
U.S. Air Force
Cold War
June Mustari
U.S. Air Force
Vietnam
Paula Willits
U.S. Navy
Vietnam
(Pictured Above)
Mamie H. Kanard
WAAC
WW II
Silent pride and steadfast dedication to duty are hallmarks of Muscogee women in service of our Country since WW II.
Not being subject to the draft, we have to this day voluntarily enlisted and proudly served in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines because it is our heritage to go forward and defend in tumultuous times. One of our Muscogee women was awarded the coveted Combat Medical Badge for her heroic frontline combat duty in the Iraq War. Muscogee women overcame harassment of all types and remained stalwart in performance.
We always have and we always will stand and defend with our Muscogee Brothers in service of our Land.
MVSKOKE HOKTVKE
SVPAKLET TAWETAKARES
Smithsonian
National Museum of the American Indian
Native Words, Native Warriors was produced by the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES).
The exhibition was made possible in part thanks to to the generous support of Elizabeth Hunter Solomon. Additional support has been provided by the Smithsonian Womens committee and AMB Foundation.

29 MAY
2012
10:00AM

All Muscogee (Creek) citizens are encouraged to attend our tribe's dedication of the Prisoner Of War statue located at the Veterans building, Muscogee (Creek) Nation complex in Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

Guests Of Honor:

Phillip W. Coon - U.S. Army
Bataan Death March Survivor - WWII

Vernon L. Wright - U.S. Air Force
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MCN School Clothing Program applications now available

Media Release
MCN Social Services

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation School Clothing Program 2012/2013, will be accepting applications for school clothing beginning Monday, May 7, 2012.

Applications will only be accepted until the deadline of Oct. 26, 2012 at 5 p.m.

This program is open to all Muscogee (Creek) citizen students no matter where they live in the United States.

The guidelines of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation School Clothing Program are as follows:

• New this year - only one application per family will be accepted!

• Child must have been previously enrolled as a Muscogee (Creek) citizen before making application. You must submit copies of each child's Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Card or a print out from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Office.

• The student must be at least three years old and enrolled in a certified Head Start (not a day care) or be four years old and enrolled in a public/private school program, pre-K through the 12th grade. All students Head Start through 12th grade must have a school official complete the School Enrollment Form that will be provided with the application. Home schooled children ages 5-18 are also eligible and must provide accredited curriculum or original receipts of textbooks purchased, and a notarized affidavit (also must be signed by the individual providing the education). The affidavit will be provided with the application.

• The primary custodial parent or legal guardian must complete the application.

Applications may be picked up at the following locations:

• The School Clothing Program office, located behind the Social Services building at 2971 N. Wood Drive, Okmulgee, OK 74447

• Any MCN Child Development Center

• Any MCN Indian Community Center

• An application is available for download at: www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov

• Call 918-549-2473 or toll free at 1-800-482-1979 for an application to be mailed or faxed directly.

All applications must be returned or mailed to: School Clothing Program, P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK. 74447.

Please do not fax or e-mail the application. We must have original documentation submitted to process applications.

For more information, please contact the School Clothing Program at 918-549-2473 or toll free at 1-800-482-1979, ext. 2473.

MCN Social Services Elder AC Program now available

Media Release
MCN Social Services

OKMULGEE — The air conditioner program provides window units for enrolled Creek citizens 60 years of age or older who have no air conditioning or existing air conditioning is inadequate.

Those under 60 years of age who suffer from or are otherwise prone to chronic illness are also eligible to apply. Both renters and homeowners may apply. Citizens are responsible for pick up and installation of air conditioners.

Guidelines:

1. Must be an enrolled Muscogee (Creek) tribal member

2. At least one member of the household must be considered as vulnerable:

A. Elder – 60 years or older

B. Medically needy as determined by a qualified health practitioner

Required Documents

• Air Conditioner application (may be completed at office or downloaded from MCN website)

• Citizenship cards for all household members (CDIB cards not accepted)

• If medically needy, a statement from a medical doctor of medical necessity

• Notarized statement from a non-family member that the applicant's home has no air conditioner or existing air conditioner is inadequate

• Additional documents may be required based on individual circumstances

For questions or additional information contact Social Services at 918-549-2445 or 1-800-482-1979.

MCN Social Services Energy Assistance Program available June 1, 2012

Media Release
MCN Social Services

OKMULGEE — We will be accepting applications by mail or fax for past participants only in May. We will NOT have appointments.

Applications for new applicants will begin on June 1, 2012. To help us process the application quickly, please submit a copy of the following documents required to determine eligibility:

LIHEAP Participants

• Current electric bill (must be in applicant and/or spouse's name)

• Citizenship card(s) or CDIB card(s) for all household members; if non-native, include driver's license or birth certificate

• Social Security card(s) for all household members

• Income or lack of income for all household members 18 years or older (check stub, unemployment benefits verification, and food stamp or commodities verification will be accepted)

•Written statement stating: I, _____, authorize Creek Nation Social Services to sign my application on my behalf. I have not received assistance for my cooling bill from any other agency, community center, etc., within the past 12 months. Applicant must sign, date, and leave a phone number.

Tribal Energy Participants

• Current electric bill (must be in applicant and/or spouse's name)

• Citizenship card(s) for all household members; if non-native, include driver's license or birth certificate

• Social Security card(s) for all household members

• Written statement stating: I, _____, authorize Creek Nation Social Services to sign my application on my behalf. Applicant must sign, date, and leave a phone number.

Once the applicant has received an approval letter, he/she will need to bring the approval letter to the office on any Friday in June or July to pick up their Educational Material bag.

For questions or additional information contact Social Services at 918-549-2445 or 1-800-482-1979.

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at (918)732-7883 OR email: tammirb@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

Reintegration Program helps former convicts readapt to family life

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

HENRYETTA — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program recently started a grant-funded program designed to help convicts with substance abuse problems readjust to living with their families.

Jenna Gouge, Reintegration Project Coordinator in charge of the Second Chance Program, explained it in further detail.

"The Second Chance grant is helping to fund inmates that are 6-12 months away from re-entry. It helps to provide treatment for inmates who have substance abuse problems and are going to have young children living in the home. We are also going to be helping them with family counseling services to help the transition into their families be smoother," she said.

Second Chance will assist inmates who are Muscogee (Creek) citizens and plan to live within the nation's boundaries upon re-entry. The program is still new and is establishing initial contact with its first inmates and the facilities that will be providing their treatment.

"We've scheduled some interviews with certain individuals and we're scheduling times with each correctional facility to visit with the inmates, and find out how many we have that are eligible for the program," said Gouge.

Gouge also named the two facilities located in Tulsa that will be administering treatment for these inmates.

"We've got memorandums set up with 12 and 12 [Center for Addiction Treatment and Recovery], and Brookhaven Hospital," she said.

She explained the plans they have for the future of the program.

"To assist as many inmates as we can, we have a two-year grant so however many we can help within that period," said Gouge.

For more information about this program contact Project Coordinator Jenna Gouge at (918) 319-1457.

Remember, to qualify for help applicants must:

• Must be a Muscogee (Creek) citizen

• Have 6-12 months of incarceration remaining

• Have a substance abuse problem

• Have minor children

• Live within Muscogee (Creek) boundaries upon re-entry.

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MAP PROGRAM	LaDonna Northcross Housing Development
BUDGETING/TAKING CONTROL OF YOUR MONEY	Mary Thomas OCCS
LOAN PROCESS	Stephanie Mercer BancFirst
SHOPPING FOR A HOME	Brenda Smolen McGraw Realtors
ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS	Mr. James Williams MCN Environmental Dept.
AMERIND INSURANCE	Lenora McPerryman AMERIND Risk Services
CLOSINGS PROCESS	Debbie Haynes OLT Real Estate Closing

May 19, 2012, 8:00 a.m.
Housing Division 1st floor Conf. Rm.

Is the tribal court room a safe place to be?

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — With news reports of shootings and other violent disturbances at courthouses, is a tribal courtroom a safe place to be? If it's a tribal court, questions remain.

That's what a meeting April 26 tried to determine for tribal courts across much of Oklahoma's Indian Country. The session was at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Mound Building with more than 10 tribes sending representatives. They met with other professionals to compare notes and experiences and assess the situations for tribal courts. The verdict: tribes need to do a lot to protect court officials, and ensure security for the families attending proceedings with the meager resources available.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court Judge Greg Bigler said the necessity for the meeting was spurred on by the recent shootings in Tulsa's courthouse plaza and in Ft. Smith. High emotions, he said, in domestic violence cases, bitter divorce cases and the possibly violent outbreaks have prompted court security teams to try "Everything we need to do to enhance safety and protect families in court." After one of the invited speakers mentioned that the Mound Building's shape created security and access problems, Bigler conceded that the court was essentially "wide-open" with not enough security personnel available.

The Mound has one metal detector, which is not working at present. Even if it were working, it would still be possible to simply walk the other way and still reach the courtrooms. Other issues to be examined would include exits from the courts and a way to keep criminals, plaintiffs and family members separated.

To bring the current building up to safe security levels, Bigler said, "You would have to give up some public convenience for a safety trade-off."

Bigler thinks one of the greatest needs is more room for separation of court litigants. There are some other big budget items, too, such as additional security staff and closed circuit TV. At present, he said, there may be no solutions and probably a need for a separate judicial building. To fix those problems would take Legislative support and they intend to bring the matter to the attention of the National Council.

That is an idea that was brought before the Council, but got no support. Long-time Court Bailiff Larry Bible mentioned that the staff had made a report to the Council some years ago, before but got no follow-up legislative activity.

Bigler concluded, "We do the best we can to protect people, the last thing we want is for someone to get hurt."

MNN/Sterling Cosper

Muscogee (Creek) National Council Speaker Sam Alexander (left) and Rep. Shirlene Ade were present at the April 2012 quarterly session. There was a tie vote in the race for the second speaker position vacated by Cherrah Ridge who now serves as the tribe's director of Community Services.

Quarter

Continued from Page 1

"I hope that doesn't happen but I guess we'll cross that bridge when we come to it," said Alexander.

Among the most discussed resolutions was TR-059 authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a contract for the purchase of property located in Okmulgee County. When the resolution came open for discussion, Rep. Franklin Coachman asked about the business plan for the property.

Tiger addressed this inquiry.

"We've been approached by a number of management groups that manage golf courses. Any time that we can expand our land base we should pursue it. We have some veterans that are in need of some housing and this property could be used for those types of economic development," said Tiger.

The resolution passed 13-0.

Another contested item was NCA-054, authorizing a donation of $110,000 to the 'Puetake Vcake Foundation' to assist funding a Mvskoke language immersion program. Rep. David Nichols spoke in support of the donation.

"There's been a lot of discussion about not letting our language die and so far that's what were doing. Our language is vital, it's important. If it's about the money, we've wasted a lot more money than that. This is something that can be good for the young people," said Nichols.

Rep. Lena Wind voiced her contention for the donation.

"In the past I have not been supportive of this program. Not that I don't feel our language is important. I feel like we need to work fervently to provide to teach our children, but I feel like this legislation only provides for a limited number of children. If we are going to pass legislation to provide for our children, it needs to be implemented in our own programs," said Wind.

Tribal elder Gary Mitchell addressed the council in support of this legislation. He spoke on the importance of preserving the Mvskoke Language and how he fought to hold on to it while he was in boarding schools where they were against its usage.

The bill failed 3-10. Johnson, Nichols and Proctor voted in favor.

Other items on the agenda for this session included:

TR 12-037 a resolution authorizing the Principal Chief to execute an oil and gas lease on 20 acres of tribal trust property located in McIntosh County. The resolution passed 13-0.

TR 12-038 a resolution authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a transfer agreement with the Indian Health Service on behalf of the United States of America. The resolution passed 13-0.

TR 12-041 a resolution authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a mutual aid memorandum of understanding with the Regional Medical Response System for mutual aid to region five health care facilities. The resolution passed 13-0.

TR 12-043 a resolution authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a total funds enrollment form and total funds account agreement with Mailroom Finance Inc. for instant postage access through a postal funding account for the Creek Nation Community Hospital. The resolution passed 13-0.

TR 12-044 a resolution confirming the nomination of Gayla Waller to serve on the Gaming Operations Authority Board. The resolution passed 12-1 with Rep. LaGrone voting against it.

TR 12-045 a resolution confirming the nomination of Wayne Johnson to serve as the director of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Human Development. The resolution passed 13-0.

TR 12-046 a resolution confirming Charles Robert "BO" Colbert to serve as the Chief of Staff of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The resolution passed 13-0.

TR 12-049 a resolution to define and authorize an oversight committee for Phase II of the River Spirit Casino project to include the construction of a hotel. The resolution passed 13-0.

TR 12-050 a resolution terminating the management agreement with the Creek Indian Memorial Association regarding the management and operation of the Creek Council House. The resolution passed 13-0.

TR 12-051 a resolution authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a memorandum of agreement among the Indian Health Service, the MCN and the town of Hanna, Okla., for sanitary sewer facilities. The resolution passed 13-0.

TR-054 a resolution authorizing the Gaming Operations Authority Board to execute an agreement for a term of three years with Video Gaming Technologies Inc. for the placement of gaming machines in MCN casinos and granting a limited waiver of sovereign immunity as set forth in the agreement. The resolution passed 13-0.

TR-055 a resolution authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a memorandum of understanding between the nation and Okmulgee County for road maintenance. The resolution passed 13-0.

TR-057 a resolution authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the nation and Okfuskee County District 1 for improvements to the Paden walking trail. The resolution passed 13-0.

TR-058 a resolution authorizing the Principal Chief to apply for a federal grant through the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Community Development Initiative. The resolution passed 13-0.

TR-060 a resolution authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a contract for the purchase of real property adjacent to the Okmulgee Golf Club located in Okmulgee County. The resolution passed 13-0.

TR-061 a resolution authorizing the Principal Chief to enter into an Indian Reservation Roads Program agreement with the United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs. The resolution passed 13-0.

NCA 12-063 a law authorizing a donation of $3,529 to Holdenville American Indian Alumni. The law passed 12-1 with LaGrone voting against it.

NCA 12-064 a law authorizing a special appropriation of $2,400 for unpaid funeral expenses of a Muscogee (Creek) citizen. The law passed 12-0 with Yahola absent.

NCA 12-065 a law appropriating $332.20 to Wild Blue Company for the Twin Hills Indian Community. The law passed 13-0.

NCA 12-067 a law authorizing a special appropriation of $3,045 to financially assist a Muscogee (Creek) youth to participate in the National Student Leadership Conference. The law passed 13-0.

NCA 12-069 a law authorizing a donation of $22,220 to Wagoner Public Schools. The law passed 10-2 with Shirlene Ade not voting and Johnson and Nichols voting against it.

NCA 12-076 a law authorizing a donation of $203,944.35 to the Rural Water, Sewer, Solid Waste Management District 3 Seminole County. The law passed 12-1 with Johnson voting against it.

NCA 12-078 a law authorizing a special appropriation to financially assist a Muscogee (Creek) student in participating in the CIS abroad summer program. The law passed 13-0.

NCA 12-079 a law appropriating $3,610,000 to be used toward the purchase of real property in Okmulgee County. The law passed 13-0.

NCA 12-080 appropriating $610,000 to be used toward the purchase of real property adjacent to the Okmulgee Golf Club located in Okmulgee County. The law passed 13-0.

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Muscogee (Creek) citizen graduates from Leadership Moore

MNN/Rebecca Landsberry
Allegiance Credit Union Branch Manager Rachael Collins was among the 11 graduates honored at the Moore Chamber of Commerce 2012 Leadership Moore ceremony in April.

Rebecca Landsberry
MNN Editor

OKLAHOMA CITY — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Rachael Collins was among the 2011-2012 Leadership Moore graduates honored April 24, 2012 at a ceremony held on the Oklahoma City Community College campus.

There were 11 professionals recognized for their work within their own organizations as well as to their service to the local community of Moore, Okla.

The Moore Chamber of Commerce offers participants the opportunity to learn more about the history, industry and government of the city through the program during nine weekly sessions beginning in October.

Leadership Moore inductee Shane Pratt welcomed attendees to the graduation ceremony.

"It has been a great privilege for me to do it and I'm excited to have gotten to know some great leaders in our community and getting to connect with more people," Pratt said.

In her position at Allegiance Credit Union, Collins stated that creating and maintaining community relations is an important part of her job as branch manager.

"I think it works both ways. I think people learned a lot about Allegiance Credit Union. They put a face with the name. On the flip side, there were 10 other people in my class that I learned about what they do. I can utilize them down the road – maybe I have lawn care needs for the credit union, maybe I have floral needs – that's the first person I'm going to call when I have one of those needs, one of my other classmates. And I hope that they would do the same," Collins stated.

Another goal of the program is to build relationships with other business leaders in the community.

"I learned a lot about the city of Moore. I really enjoyed the relationships that I built on a professional level and on a personal level. You get a lot out of it, not just because you're learning about the city and the political side and the different businesses that Moore supports, but you learn a lot about the people that you're working with in your class that are graduating with you," Collins said.

No matter the industry, local trade and commerce is an essential pillar of any successful municipality and taking a page from history can impact the future.

"One of the most enjoyable aspects of the class was learning about Oklahoma history, and how the city of Moore was established. What began as a few businesses and a train stop has now grown to be the third largest school district in the state," she said.

After a presentation from guest speaker Jan Astani, Moore Chamber of Commerce Board member Staci Pruett and Jennifer Edwards thanked graduates for their dedication to the program and presented them with framed certificates of completion.

Oklahoma State Rep. Randy Terrill, a participant of the first Leadership Moore class, also presented each graduate a printed citation from the Oklahoma House of Representatives.

As a graduate of the program, Collins hopes to continue growing as a professional in the city of Moore. She encourages others to get involved and learn about opportunities where they can use their connections to continue developing their community.

"The experiences we've shared as Leadership Moore Class of 2012 will be remembered for years to come. I would strongly encourage my peers to get involved in community efforts, and learn ways they can support their local schools and charities," Collins said.

Former MCN Little Miss shoots for state title

Gerald Wofford
MNN Feature Writer

TULSA — Talia Buckley will vie for the title of Miss Oklahoma Jr. Pre-Teen June 8-9, 2012 in Tulsa. This will be Buckley's second year competing in the pageant, which is sponsored by National American.

The fourth grader attends Emerson Elementary and has already won Little Miss Division II Muscogee Creek Nation Princess in 2010.

Buckley has always been a competitor; the 10-year-old Creek girl from McAlester shows this spirit by entering pageants that require grace, talent, a commanding presence and self-confidence. The bright lights, loud noises and eyes of hundreds of people watching are nothing that rattles Buckley when she is competing.

The dedication it takes to enter pageants can be costly with entry fees, costumes and travel. This is Buckley's second year to compete in the pageant. She was referred anonymously last year and was automatically invited back to compete in the 2012 pageant.

Each finalist is required to pay the $440 sponsor fee, which they can pay themselves or raise through family, friends and businesses. Already Buckley and her family have begun to raise funds through Indian taco sales and a garage sale in Sapulpa. Buckley's mother Misti says fund-raising is part of the experience.

"We had two Indian taco pageant fund raisers in McAlester this year and we did OK," says Misti, "Each time we have an Indian Taco fund raiser we do even better than before. We held our final pageant fund raiser in Sapulpa during the citywide yard last weekend . . . we did extremely well and we already have plans to do it again next year. We always enjoy visiting with our customers. They are very supportive of Talia when we tell them that we are raising money for the National American Miss Pageant," says Misti and is quick to point that all contributions are tax deductible.

Photo Courtesy/Buckley Family
Former Little Miss Muscogee Nation Division II titleholder Talia Buckley will compete for the Oklahoma Jr. Preteen title June 8-9, 2012 in Tulsa.

During her competition in the Miss Oklahoma Jr. Pre-Teen Pageant, Buckley will be scored in four categories at the pageant including: Introduction, Interview, Community Service and Formal Wear, which is her favorite. Buckley will get to wear two gowns of her choice and has also chosen to compete in the optional Actress competition this year.

"Pageant weekend is a time that we get to dedicate to Talia," says Buckley. "It is a special time with our daughter. We get to watch her grow and become a more confident young woman throughout the pageant. The competition provides her with many opportunities to gain self-confidence and improve her public speaking skills," Misti continued.

As the 2010 Little Miss Division II Muscogee (Creek) Nation winner, Talia wishes that the Little Miss Division would come back so she could compete for the Division III Title. In the meantime, she's patiently waiting for her chance to compete in the Jr. Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation Scholarship Pageant

Buckley is a student at McAlester and her future plans vary, from becoming an accomplished writer and attending a performing arts school to being a Disney channel kid.

"We will support her no matter what she decides to do. We are very proud of her," says Misti.

Buckley's parents are Arharlock and Misti Buckley.

She has two brothers, AJ and Zander Buckley. Grandparents are Ray and Cynthia Tainpeah and Steve and Marqueita Coon of Paden, Kelly Patillo and Debbie Love of Eufaula and the late John Buckley of Sapulpa.

"Pete" Douglas leads Oktaha to a 29-1 season

Darren DeLaune
MNN Sports Writer

OKTAHA — From the first time she put a basketball in her hands, Cole "Pete" Douglas had a natural ability for this sport, which was responsible for her nickname as well. "Pete" was named for another basketball star that also had a natural ability for the sport, "Pistol" Pete Maravich.

Douglas, who played guard for the Oktaha Lady Tigers, was nothing short of phenomenal in her final year of high school sports. Leading the Lady Tigers to a 29-1 season, and helping the team make their way to state (first round loss to Fairview). Of the four years that Douglas played basketball, three of those years they made it to the state tournament.

Douglas played point guard and started all four years for the 2A team, but that was not all she contributed. She was the team's leading rebounder and when needed, a motivator for her teammates.

"We used to have our practices start in the morning around 7:30 a.m.," Douglas said. "I started coming in at 6 a.m., to get my running down. Then the rest of the team started coming in at the same time also. There were times we were here practicing way before the janitors would show up."

Photo Courtesy/Missy Smith
Cole "Pete" Douglas played guard for the Oktaha Lady Tigers and was the team's leading rebounder in 2011-2012.

Her total record for her high school career at Oktaha is 104 wins and 13 losses.

Coach Chester Pittman had nothing but praise for Douglas.

"Pete" progressed each year for us," Pittman said. "She became better and better and stepped into the role of being a leader. When we needed things to happen we put the ball in her hands and let her take over."

Since she was a baby, Douglas had a basketball in her hands, ready to play, whenever she could. Coming from a family of basketball players helped to keep the competitive fire going. Both mother and father played when they were younger. She also has an older brother and sister (Sister Ty's Oktaha team won the 2005 Oklahoma 2A State Tournament).

"Pete is an adaptor," Pittman said. "It all depended on what type of game we had that night. If they had a good player that we had to stop, "Pete" would step up to the challenge and guard that player. If there was a night when she was not scoring a lot of points, "Pete" always made that extra pass to the open player. The tougher the game, the tougher "Pete" got. We are going to have trouble replacing her."

To go with the awards attained throughout her high school career, she can add "All-State" to the list. She was recently named part of the Oklahoma Coaches Association (OCA) All-State and Oklahoma Girls Basketball Coaches Association (OGBCA) All-State and is waiting to hear from Indian All-State.

Douglas also made the National Honor Society and the Principal's Honor Roll for the 2011-2012 school year.

Douglas is not sure if she wants to pursue basketball on the college level. That does not mean that there aren't schools that want her. Schools such as Connors State College want Douglas to come play for them.

"At first I wanted to go to the military to follow in my brother's footsteps (Brother Brett is in the Marines)," Douglas said. "I changed my mind and I want to go to school to become an engineer. I still love basketball but I feel like I need a break. However, I am going to leave that open, just in case I want to return to this sport," she said.

Douglas parents are Missy and Patrick Smith and Bruce Douglas. She is Creek, Sioux, Seminole and Nez-Perce and she is from the Nokose (Bear) Clan. She attends church at Big Arbor Indian Baptist.

"DOING BUSINESS IN INDIAN COUNTRY"

A Decade of Quality CLE

River Spirit Event Center
May 17-18, 2012
8330 Riverside Pkwy
Tulsa, Okla.

Moderators:
Hon. Gregory H. Bigler, BS, JD, LL.M, Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court Judge
Jasen Chadwick, JD – Staff Attorney - Muscogee (Creek) Nation Supreme Court

Faculty Members:
Stacy Leeds, JD – Dean, University of Arkansas College of Law
Judith V. Royster, JD – Professor of Law, University of Tulsa
G.W. Rice, JD – Professor of Law , University of Tulsa
Steven Hager, JD – Director of Litigation - Oklahoma Indian Legal Services
Debra Gee, JD – Deputy Attorney General – Chickasaw Nation
Jennifer H. McBee, JD – McCormick & Bryan
Hon. Eugene Bertman, JD – McCormick & Bryan

COURSE OUTLINE - DAY ONE
May 17, 2012

8:00	Registration and Breakfast
8:40	Opening Ceremony
8:45	Welcome and Introduction – Gregory H. Bigler
9:00	Past, Present and Future of Federal Indian Law – Stacy Leeds
9:50	Break
10:00	Avoiding Legal Pitfalls associated with the Indian Child Welfare Act – Steve Hager
11:00	The Tribal Law & Order Act and how it is affecting tribes - Debra Gee
11:50	Lunch – Visions Buffet
1:10	The Legal Battle for Water – Is it worth it to the Tribes? Judith Royster
2:00	Break
2:10	Federal Indian Law and Traditional Law: A Complex Relationship – Gregory H. Bigler
3:00	Tribal Casino Tort Claims - Jennifer McBee & Gene Bertman
4:00	Question & Answer Session and Evaluations of Day 1 – All Faculty and Speakers
5:00	Supreme Court Swearing in Ceremony - River Spirit Events Center
5:30	Buffet Dinner provided at the River Spirit Casino in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Bar Association

COURSE OUTLINE - DAY TWO
May 18, 2012

7:45	Registration and Breakfast
8:15	Opening Remarks – Gregory H. Bigler
8:30	Tribal Child Support: A Legal Overview of the System – April Buck
9:30	Business Ventures with Tribes – David McCullough
10:20	Break
10:30	The History of Tribal Courts - G. William Rice
11:20	Break
11:30	Ethical Considerations - A Tribal Perspective - Travis Pickens
12:20	Question & Answer Session and Evaluations of Day 2 – All Faculty and Speakers
	Adjourn

Tuition Structure: $200 for both days
Daily Rates – Day One – $150
10 hours of CLE credit with 1 hour of ethics

REGISTRATION FORM
DOING BUSINESS IN INDIAN COUNTRY-2012

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Visit us at www.muscogeecreektribalcourt.org

Muscogee Nation News

June 1, 2012
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Tribe secures Okmulgee Country Club for $3.6 million

Gary Fife / Christina Good Voice
MNN Staff

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation has made another significant real estate purchase, the Okmulgee Country Club which sits on land formerly owned by the Creek nation.

This is the second major real estate purchase by the tribe in the last month. Recently, the Riverwalk Crossing in Jenks was acquired.

Principal Chief George Tiger signed legislation May 10, authorizing the $3.6 million purchase, calling it a "historic day" that allowed the tribe to continue to diversify economic development plans.

Many tribal officials were in attendance as the chief signed the legislation, including MCN Second Chief Roger Barnett and Tiger's cabinet members.

The MCN National Council approved the legislation for the purchase at its April 28 meeting, and Tiger's signature was the final step in the acquisition.

Tiger said the deal was not an investment in leisure and recreation, "We're not looking at it as a golf course, but a land purchase. It feels good and reflects a positive direction. Today is a reflection on how far we've come as the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and how far the communities we share in our jurisdiction have come as well," Tiger said. "I believe that says a lot about where we're at today."

The tribe, he said, would be looking at job development, possible veteran's housing and would be working with the Okmulgee community on future development plans.

MNN/Gary Fife

Muscogee (Creek) Nation purchased the Okmulgee Country Club and Golf Course May 10, 2012. Future development plans are in the works for the property located at 1400 Mission Lane in Okmulgee, Okla.

"The Muscogee (Creek) Nation explored working with communities and sharing resources to improve not only relationships, but to collaborate to improve current economic conditions through diversity of job development," Tiger said.

"In working together we feel it's a win-win for everybody."

Built in 1920, the 159-acre country club located at 1400 Mission Lane includes an 18-hole golf course, formal dining room, bar, restaurant and swimming pool. These amenities and the clubhouse itself will remain unchanged for now, Tiger said, until tribal economic planning is finalized. Job development, he predicted, may focus on maintenance tasks and an inspection.

The return of the property to Creek ownership was something that didn't go unnoticed by Tiger, "It's ironic that I'm standing here," adding, once he would not have been allowed on the club property because he was a non-white, "It just happened to be during an era when those were the things being considered about where you could go and what you could do," says Tiger. "It makes me feel good to be standing here, where I wasn't able to come at one point in time."

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MCN to take on management of Creek Council House; details remain unclear

Sterling Cosper / Christina Good Voice
MNN Staff

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation recently passed Tribal Resolution 12-050, which will terminate the management agreement with the Creek Indian Memorial Association, ending the association's oversight of the Creek Council House.

The resolution authorized by Principal Chief George Tiger May 2, 2012, stated that management agreement requires 180-days written notice before the contract is officially terminated.

The MCN officially purchased the Council House from the city of Okmulgee Nov. 12, 2010 and the management agreement between the city and Creek Indian Memorial Association for the operation of the Council House transferred to the MCN with the purchase.

The resolution explained the reasoning behind the termination of the management agreement.

MNN/Gary Fife

Muscogee (Creek) National Council TR 12-050 effectively terminated the long-standing management agreement with the Creek Indian Memorial Association.

"Whereas, the nation is capable of operating and managing the Council House on its own and it desires to use its own resources for the management and operation of the Council House," the resolution stated.

Despite the termination of the contract, the memorial association still has oversight over the artifacts on display in the museum portion of the Council House.

Details about the Council House's future are unclear. The Muscogee Nation News attempted to contact tribal officials and Council House representatives.

When reached for comment, Creek Council House Curator Clint Sago referred MNN staff to Executive Director of the Creek Council House Dave Anderson, who verified he had been given notice to vacate, but wasn't aware of any details.

National Council Rep., and legislative sponsor Eddie LaGrone and MCN Tourism & Recreation Director Will Lowe referred the MNN to Principal Chief George Tiger for comment.

In a May 16 radio interview with Mvskoke Radio, Tiger gave a brief statement alluding to the future of the Creek Council House. As of press time, no further details were available.

Archives of Mvskoke Radio can be found online at: www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov Click the Mvskoke Radio icon to access past episodes.

Hufft elected second speaker at regular session May 19

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE — Another election for second speaker was held at a regular session of the National Council May 19, 2012. Rep. Robert Hufft was sworn in to the position after receiving eight votes to Adam Jones III's seven.

Two previous attempts to elect a second speaker during the quarterly session held April 28, 2012 resulted in a tie between Reps. Jones and Hufft.

Mark Randolph, Wagoner District Seat B who was elected May 11, 2012, was also sworn in.

Among the legislation voted on during this session was **NCA 12-074** which would restore the original language of the 1979 Muscogee (Creek) Nation Constitution by eliminating 'at large' voting and council representation and overturning a previous amendment to the Constitution entitled A67.

A67 included a section requiring 'at large' voting and council representation. This method of voting allowed Muscogee (Creek) citizens to vote for National Council representatives outside their district.

The original version of the amendment presented to the council with slightly different language, failed to reach the required two-thirds majority.

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Lighthorse Part II: Wild Onions, Glocks and PR

10 - ARTS
McCulley named 2012 featured artist

Muscogee Nation News
STAFF

Manager - Christina Good Voice
Editor - Rebecca Landsberry
Editorial Assistant - Gary Fife
Reporter - Sterling Cosper
Sports Writer - Darren DeLaune
Feature Writer - Gerald Wofford
Circulation - Wilma Lewis

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To submit a change of address or a letter to the editor, call (918) 732-7720 or send e-mail to: wlewis@mcn-nsn.gov

Muscogee (Creek) Nation receives deed to Riverwalk Crossing

Rebecca Landsberry
MNN Editor

JENKS — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation received the deed to Riverwalk Crossing May 22, 2012 as the final step of the property acquisition. The tribe purchased Riverwalk Crossing in Jenks April 17,2012 for $11.5 million and has plans to use the 175,000-square-foot area to promote economic development.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Economic Development Committee Chairman J.D. Colbert is leading this project.

As the next step in the process, the tribe presented the city of Jenks with a check for $1,138,828.93 as reimbursement for a property enhancement loan.

"These proceeds represent the payoff of a loan that the city of Jenks made when they created what's know as a special improvement district here in the original development of Riverwalk. The city of Jenks funded about $1.3 million of city monies to help develop this property with infrastructure and improvements . . . Now that it's gone through foreclosure, Muscogee (Creek) Nation is not legally obligated to repay the monies but of course, we want to be a very good neighbor with the city of Jenks and so we've elected, on this first day of our ownership, to demonstrate that good will by issuing this check to the city and to pay off that loan," Colbert stated.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Second Chief Roger Barnett echoed this sentiment. "We look forward to being a good neighbor to the city of Jenks and the surrounding areas as well," he said.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger said the receipt of the deed shows the tribe's continued effort to diversify economic development.

"This allows for the tribe to continue its avenue of diversifying economic development," Tiger said. "That's important. We're looking forward to a great relationship with current tenants as well as new businesses that will be brought in, and we look forward to being good neighbors to Jenks and south Tulsa."

MNN/Sterling Cosper
J.D. Colbert spoke to the media about plans for the future of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's newly aquired Riverwalk Crossing at a press conference May 22, 2012.

Tiger commented on the historical significance of the location of the property to the Arkansas River and the city of Tulsa for the Mvskoke people, who settled there after the Trail of Tears. The land was once an allotment of a Muscogee (Creek) citizen.

"It's ironic that I hold this piece of paper [the deed] in my hands. This property, at one time, was an allotted piece of property for one of our tribal members, so it's something I feel very emotional about. It's taken the full turn… a full circle and now it belongs to the hand of the Muscogee (Creek) people," Tiger said.

"What we wanna do at Riverwalk is really play to the unique strengths of this property. There really isn't another property anywhere like this in the state of Oklahoma and we want to create a mix of tenants that will allow our patrons to have a good time and to have an experience that you cannot find anywhere between Kansas City and Dallas. They are going to be tenants that you won't find anywhere else in Oklahoma," said Colbert.

Colbert said the opportunity for linking the tribe's River Spirit Casino with the Riverwalk property exists; however, gaming will not be present on the newly acquired property.

"Certainly there are a lot of opportunities for synergy between marketing what we do on that side of the river and what we do and will do on this side. We see a very strong linkage there," Colbert said.

The tribe plans to work with non-profit and philanthropic organizations to host events for them at the location, Colbert said.

Currently, a summer concert series is taking place at the amphitheater located at the Riverwalk Crossing.

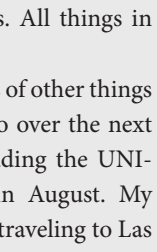
Letter from the MNN Editor:

OKMULGEE — Summertime always puts me in a fantastic mood. We're growing fresh vegetables in the garden and love gathering the onions and turnips but I'm ready for some juicy, summer tomatoes. All things in time, I suppose.

There are lots of other things to look forward to over the next few months including the UNITY Conference in August. My staff and I will be traveling to Las Vegas, N.V., as part of the Native American Journalists Association annual conference, which will be held in conjunction with other groups representing diversity in media. I am beyond excited for this opportunity to represent the MNN.

Of course this month, the 38th annual Muscogee Festival will steal the show with all the favorites you've come to expect. There truly is something for everyone during this weekend and I hope you can make time to catch a few of the highlights. You know the tribe is giving away a brand new car to a citizen this year, right? If that's not enough to entice you, there will be plenty of frybread.

If you have news, events or story ideas, please contact the Communications Department at (918) 732-7720 or email me at RLandsberry@MCN-NSN.gov



Session

Continued from Page 1

The bill's sponsor, Rep. Eddie LaGrone, called this version, "a draft placed by clerical error that should have never made it to the floor."

A substitute version of the bill was approved by the council with a vote of **14-2**, which fulfilled the two-thirds majority required to amend the Constitution. This included Speaker Sam Alexander who voted in favor and Reps. Pete Beaver and David Hill who voted against the bill.

Muscogee (Creek) citizens will vote on the amendment during the primary election July 7, 2012.

Another piece of legislation voted on during the session was **NCA 12-070**, sponsored by Alexander, which amends the gaming code to allow for three commissioners, rather than one. The full version of the amendment, which **passed 15-0**, cited the considerable expansion of the nation's gaming facilities as the reason for this change.

Other items on the agenda include:

• **TR 12-052** a resolution confirming the re-nomination of Angela Dianne Barnett – Meeker to serve on the Muscogee Nation Election Board. Reps. Wind and Greene sponsored the resolution, which **passed 15-0**.

• **TR 12-056** a resolution authorizing the Principal Chief to execute an agreement with Watts Partners of Washington, D.C. Rep. Ade sponsored the bill, which **passed 15-0**.

• **TR 12-062** a resolution confirming the nomination of James Pratt as the controller for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Rep. Ade sponsored the bill, which passed **15-0**.

• **TR 12-063** a resolution confirming the nomination of Jeff Fife to serve as the director of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Tribal Affairs. Rep. LaGrone sponsored the bill, which passed **15-0**.

• **TR 12-064** a resolution confirming the nomination of Cherrah Ridge to serve as the Director of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Community Services. Rep. Greene sponsored the bill, which **passed 15-0.**

• **TR 12-065** a resolution authorizing the Principal Chief to execute the cross deputization agreement tribal addendum with the Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Law Enforcement Services and Security (BIA OBLESS), which will allow all Muscogee (Creek) Nation law enforcement to be cross commissioned with the BIA OBLESS. Rep. Ade sponsored the bill, which **passed 15-0**.

• **TR 12-066** a resolution confirming the nomination of Christopher M. Ray to serve on the Gaming Operations Authority Board. Reps. Hufft, Jones, Hill and Alexander sponsored the bill, which **passed 15-0**.

• **TR 12-067** a resolution authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a 2012 Indian National Finals Rodeo (INFR) tour approval application for the 2012 festival. Rep. Jones sponsored the bill, which **passed 15-0**.

• **TR 12-068** a resolution supporting the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Children and Family Services Administration in submission of a grant renewal application for the Family Violence Prevention and Services Program for fiscal year 2012 through fiscal year 2014. Rep. Greene sponsored the bill, which **passed 15-0**.

• **TR 12-069** a resolution authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a contract between the nation and Sooner Saferooms Inc., for the construction of restrooms at the Bob Arrington Rodeo Arena. Rep. Proctor sponsored the bill, which **passed 15-0.**

• **TR 12-070** a resolution authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the nation and Hughes County for improvements to the Dustin Housing Streets Project. Rep. LaGrone sponsored the bill, which **passed 15-0**.

• **TR 12-071** a resolution authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a memorandum of understanding between the nation and Hughes County for the maintenance of the Dustin Housing Streets Project. Rep. LaGrone sponsored the bill, which **passed 15-0.**

• **NCA 12-077** a law appropriating $227,500 to be used for hiring and retaining Watts Partners for consulting and advisory services on behalf of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Rep. Ade sponsored the bill, which **passed 15-0**.

• **NCA 12-081** a law appropriating $85,930 to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Health to update the emergency medical alert device system. Rep. Johnson sponsored the bill, which **passed 15-0**.

• **NCA 12-082** a law authorizing a supplemental appropriation of $10,000 to the legal services, courts, costs and publication fee revolving fund. Reps. Ade and Alexander sponsored the bill, which **passed 15-0**.

• **NCA 12-083** a law authorizing a special appropriation of $4,498 to four of the Muscogee (Creek) Indian communities to provide Internet services through Exede System. Rep. Greene sponsored the bill, which **passed 15-0**.

• **NCA 12-085** a law authorizing a special appropriation of $550.83 to Okfuskee Indian Community for the continuance of Wild Blue Internet services. Rep. Greene sponsored the bill, which **passed 15-0**.

• **NCA 12-086** a law authorizing a special appropriation of $2,400 to financially assist a Muscogee (Creek) student. Reps. Hufft, Greene and Wind sponsored the bill, which **passed 15-0**.

• **NCA 12-087** a law authorizing a special appropriation of $10,000 to the Weleetka Indian Community. Rep. Coachman sponsored the bill, which **passed 15-0**.

• **NCA 12-088** a law authorizing a special appropriation of $13,000 to Hickory Ground #1 Baptist Church. Rep. Proctor sponsored the bill, which **passed 15-0**.

• **NCA 12-089** a law authorizing budget modification in excess of 10 percent for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Employment and Training Program. Reps. Greene and Beaver sponsored the bill, which **passed 15-0**.

• **NCA 12-090** a law authorizing a supplemental appropriation of $476,191 to the Employment and Training Summer Youth Program fiscal year 2012 budget. Reps. Greene, Beaver and Wind sponsored the bill, which **passed 15-0**.

• **NCA 12-091** a law authorizing the expenditure of the United States Department of Transportation – Federal Transit Administration grant funds to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Transit Program. Rep. Proctor sponsored the bill, which **passed 15-0**.

• **NCA 12-092** a law authorizing a special appropriation of $4,647 to financially assist six Muscogee (Creek) students attending the National Students Taking Action with Recognition (STAR) events competition. Rep. Thomas sponsored the bill, which **passed 15-0**.

• **NCA 12-093** a law authorizing a special appropriation of $424.75 to Glenpool and Sapulpa Indian Communities to continue Internet services. Reps. Johnson and Greene sponsored the bill, which **passed 15-0**.

Rep. Kara Medina was absent.

Community Calendar June 2012

Ocmulgee to Okmulgee Trail of Tears Bike Ride

OKMULGEE — Three words, "Ocmulgee to Okmulgee" pack an encyclopedia of history for the Muscogee people and make an appropriate name for the commemorative bicycle tour taking place in June.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Museum, Cultural Center, & Archives, Program Manager/ Museum Director and Curator John Beaver and Asst. Director Justin Bruce Giles are spearheading the event.

Beaver will be the lead rider in the Ocmulgee to Okmulgee: Muscogee (Creek) Nation Trail of Tears Bicycle Tour as he visits sites from the well known to those off the beaten path to present the history and stories of Muscogee culture in the Southeast.

The tour will commence June 2 at the Ocmulgee Mounds in Macon, Ga., and will conclude the weekend of June 23 at the 2012 Muscogee Festival in Okmulgee, Okla.

Some of the sites to be visited, such as the Ocmulgee Mounds near Macon, Ga., tie into ancient Mvskoke history.

The project team will also visit original tvlwv (town) sites and battle sites. Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizens and the public are invited to join in the bicycle tour or to make the journey by automobile, following the itinerary and maps. For those who may be interested in riding during various parts of the tour, please be advised that most riding days will consist of a minimum of 50 mile distances in summer heat and humidity.

Some days, the rides and distances covered may be longer in duration in order to meet travel itineraries. All participants are responsible for their own travel and lodging. All participants waive, release, and hold harmless the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, employees and volunteers, and all other sponsors, their representatives and successors from all claims and liabilities that may arise from this event.

From the Ocmulgee Mounds, the tour will progress from Georgia to Alabama, heading west to Fort Mitchell across portions of the Old Federal Road, before continuing west to Montgomery, Fort Toulouse and Horseshoe Bend. The route will then move into Tennessee and take old military routes through Arkansas, arriving at Fort Gibson as the western terminal of the forced march.

Event planning has built many inter-agency relationship bridges that Beaver and Giles believe will lead to a Muscogee presence and perspective previously lacking in the history and commentary surrounding our ancestral homelands, the removal process, and the continuity of our ancient Muscogee culture within our current day environment. This can benefit our own people as well as the general public.

"Telling our stories" has already been identified as one of the primary goals of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Museum, so it seems very appropriate for the museum staff to be making this journey.

"Stories can be shared in many ways," explains Beaver, "but we want to show our people and others that a museum can be about learning history through activity."

The project team has included Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tourism and Recreation to assist with community involvement, Veterans Affairs, and the Division of Health, which is promoting the healthy eating and fitness aspect of the bike tour.

The tour project will be part of Let's Move! In Indian Country and Let's Move! Museums as a fitness initiative and is meant to heighten awareness and promote a lifestyle that can help reduce the number of new cases of heart disease, diabetes, and childhood obesity within the Native American community.

Anyone wanting to follow the tour as it progresses can do so on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation website, the Museum website, http://www.muscogeenationmuseum.org/ and the Facebook page for the Museum.

Additional information will be added at these sites post-ride.

Confirmed tour stops:

June 2 – Ocmulgee Mounds, Macon, Ga.

June 3 – Fort Mitchell, Ala.

June 9 – Fort Toulouse, Ala.

June 11 – Horseshoe Bend, Ala.

June 22 – Fort Gibson Historic Site, Okla.

June 23 – Okmulgee, Okla.

For more information contact John Beaver at 918-549-2428 or email: jbeaver@muscogeenation-nsn.gov or Justin Giles at 918-549-2429 or email: jgiles@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

Eufaula hosts Men's Health Summit June 6

EUFAULA — The Eufaula Indian Health Center will host the 5th annual Men's Health Summit Wednesday, June 6, 2012 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at the EIC Skate Zone, located at 800 Birkes Rd., in Eufaula.

Lunch will be provided and men are allowed to bring wives and or sisters, however, T-shirts will only be provided for the men. Participants must pre-register and attend the session to receive lunch, T-shirt and enter drawings.

Registration forms may be picked up at the Eufaula Indian Health Clinic or local community center and must be returned no later than May 23, 2012.

Registration will begin at 8 a.m. For more information, please email: Lucas.Taylor@creekhealth.org

Solid Rock to host Indian taco sale June 16

GLENPOOL — Solid Rock Indian Baptist Church, located at 841 E. 141st St., in Glenpool will host an Indian taco sale Saturday, June 16, 2012 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Orders are $7 for an Indian taco, drink and dessert. "To go" orders will be available.

For more information, e-mail: dan@workspaceresource.com

BAIUMC to host Indian taco sale June 16

BROKEN ARROW — Broken Arrow Indian United Methodist Church, located one mile east of Tulsa County Line on 141st St., will host an Indian taco sale Saturday, June 16, 2012 from 11:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Orders are $7 for an Indian taco.

For more information, contact Irene McHenry at 918-978-2299.

TCIC hosts Health Fair June 29

TULSA — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community will host a health fair Friday, June 29 from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m., to benefit the seniors' National Indian Conference on Aging trip.

For more information or to reserve a booth space, contact Don Cahwee at 918-812-4797 or via email at donc@gracehospice.com

Spirit of Oklahoma Football Camp set for July 6-7

WELEETKA — The second annual Spirit of Oklahoma Football Camp is set for July 6-7, 2012 at the Weleetka Football Field in Weleetka.

University of Oklahoma Sooner Football great Jamelle Holieway and friends will be conducting the one-day camp for youth ages 8-16.

The camp is geared to host youth within the 35-40 mile radius of Weleetka.

Last year, the camp was host to 106 youth and the numbers are expected to double for 2012.

For more information, contact Sandi Golden 405-786-2635 or 918-623-6437.

MCN General Election set for July 7, 2012

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) National Council general election is set for July 7, 2012.

In Creek District, a run-off between National Council candidates Dode Barnett and Dean Tiger.

All polling precincts will be open from 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

Mvskoke Language Program to host immersion camp July 9-13

OKMULGEE — The Mvskoke Language Program is currently planning an immersion camp for kindergarten thru fifth grade students.

The camp will be July 9-13, 2012 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Human Development Building.

For more information or for an application, call (918) 732-7724.

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Hill crowned Miss Indian Oklahoma 2012-2013

Photo courtesy/Hill Family

Pictured above is Muscogee (Creek) citizen and College of the Muscogee Nation student Brittany Morgan Hill, 21, who was recently crowned the 2012 Miss Indian Oklahoma held May 12, 2012, in Oklahoma City, Okla.

Media Release
Miss Indian Oklahoma

OKLAHOMA CITY — Muscogee (Creek) citizen and College of the Muscogee Nation student Brittany Morgan Hill, 21, was awarded Best Tribal Greeting and the title of 2012 Miss Indian Oklahoma at the pageant held May 12, 2012, in Oklahoma City, Okla.

The titles of Miss and Jr. Miss Indian Oklahoma are held by the Oklahoma Federation of Indian Women. The theme of the pageant this year was, "Remembering our Native Mothers: Their Spirit, Strength, and Beauty."

Each candidate competed in the categories of: essay writing, interviews, description of tribal dress, tribal greeting/introduction, traditional talent, contemporary wear, presentation of platform and impromptu question. The age division for Miss Indian Oklahoma is 18-24 years old.

Hill belongs to the Muscogee (Creek) and Yankton Sioux tribes. She is the daughter of Levi Hill, originally of Eufaula and Deborah Hill, originally of Marty, S.D. Hill currently resides with her family in Broken Arrow, Okla.

She has two sisters, Jennifer Niyah and Breana Hill, along with two nephews Joseph and Brandon Niyah. Brittany has relatives from California to West Virginia including South Dakota, New Mexico, North Carolina, Florida and Oklahoma.

Hill believes she is a summation of her parents, grandparents, ancestors and her community. She is very proud of her Native culture and heritage which is embedded in her daily life.

Brittany and her family love to travel throughout Indian country to various powwows and events.

Hill currently attends the College of Muscogee Nation and OSUIT in Okmulgee, Okla., where she is majoring in Sociology/Criminology with a minor in Native American Studies. She has set her sights and goals high for her future. Her plan is to become an advocate for native youth and the challenges they face in Indian Country.

Her platform for the pageant was raising awareness regarding the issue of suicide among our Native youth. Brittany is dedicated to joining and working with others in their commitments to improving the overall well being of our Native American families and communities all across Indian Country.

She wants to be an advocate and voice for Native youth.

Brittany would like to thank her family and friends for all their love and support. She looks forward to an exciting reign representing her family, tribes, community, the Oklahoma Federation of Indian Women as well as all Indian people throughout Oklahoma as the 2012 Miss Indian Oklahoma.

Creek fighter makes boxing debut

Gerald Wofford
MNN Feature Writer

OKLAHOMA CITY — Since 1989, Darren DeLaune has dreamed of becoming a boxer. Although he has played other sports throughout his life and even went to college to play basketball, DeLaune admits that the pugilistic sport fascinates him. On June 16, 2012, DeLaune's dream of entering a ring as a prizefighter comes true when he makes his debut in Oklahoma City at the Cox Convention Center against Terry Justice, who also is fighting for the first time.

MNN/Gerald Wofford

Darren DeLaune, an employee with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Communications Department, is in training for his first boxing match.

"What drew me to it [boxing] was called 'The War' recalls DeLaune. The event, or 'The War' was the second Sugar Ray Leonard and Thomas Hearns Championship bout that took place June 12, 1989. It was a fight that saw Leonard and Hearns go to a draw.

"I watched it with my uncle, who was a big Leonard fan. I remember how competitive it was," DeLaune remembers.

Even then, DeLaune did not seriously consider getting into boxing, "I watched it, but never thought about pursuing it. I was always into basketball, but about two years ago, I felt like I really wanted to do it."

DeLaune admits that is it also the individuality of boxing that is a challenge as well. "There are team sports; you can pass the ball to a teammate, you win and lose as a team, you have a team but this time you're in the ring. If you win, it is because you win. And if you lose, it's because you lost and I want to test myself that way."

Even after the decision, DeLaune knew that he had to find a good source of consultation, someone that had fought before, someone local and someone who was Creek. DeLaune looked no further than to a name that had already established himself as someone who had been around the sport. BJ Waggnor, aka "The Creek Warrior" has been both a professional and amateur boxer and has trained fighters as well.

"I talked with him [BJ] and his dad, Bill, who also is a trainer and I asked him if he could teach me."

Waggnor and his father who trained BJ when he was a boxer, agreed and DeLaune says that Waggnor helped him throughout the years in learning more about boxing.

"I went to other gyms," said DeLaune, "but no one is my trainer but BJ."

DeLaune admits that his training regime can become quite Spartan, but feels that he should be demanding of himself.

"My training sessions will consist of nights and days of running as well as hitting the heavy bag and jump roping, push ups and sit ups that are included. I do add weight training and all this twice a day."

DeLaune has been in training for over two years and part of the challenge of becoming a fighter involved a little patience as well.

"In April of 2011, I applied for a license from the State of Oklahoma to box, I have been looking for about 13 months, when it looked like a promoter would offer me a fight, then suddenly he would fill in another slot with other fighters or sometimes I would get injured training, . . .It got frustrating but I am ready now and I am healthy. When I first got the text message from BJ that I would be fighting in June, I couldn't sleep that night.

DeLaune is currently employed with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Communications Department. DeLaune says his family has been nothing but supportive of his decision. His daughter, Syeann, is ready for him to box as well and can't wait to see how her father does. "Yeah, my daughter is happy and tired of me talking about it," laughs DeLaune.

Buckley to be a Hillcat

Darren DeLaune
MNN Sports Writer

KELLYVILLE — After he learned to dribble, Jonathan Buckley couldn't keep a basketball out of his hands. From the time he was three years old, Buckley has not gone a day without a drill or training that involves basketball. That dedication, perseverance and never-quit attitude is what helped him earn a scholarship to play for Rogers State in Claremore, Okla.

Buckley played high school basketball for the Ponies at Kellyville. His coach, Joe Ballard, compares his style of play to NBA star James Harden of the Oklahoma City Thunder.

"I like to compare Jonathan to Harden," Ballard said. "He could do anything on the floor. He can shoot the three, drive to the goal and also make great passes to his open teammates. That is where I see the comparison."

This year, Buckley's team relied on him to be able to play anywhere. At 6'4", 170 pounds, he showed exactly what he needed to do on the court. The opposing teams knew what he could do as well and tried their best to stop him. Buckley let the other teams know he could do anything his coach needed him to do when called upon to make sure his team came home with the win.

"If I needed to play a post or a guard," Buckley said, "that was okay with me. I wanted to do everything that I could to get my team involved and to make sure we won our games. It didn't matter to me at all. I wanted to get out there, play and help my team."

"Jonathan could play anywhere on the floor at anytime," Ballard said. "This year I needed him to play point guard but he could play wherever I needed him when he was out on the court. There were times if his threes were not falling, he would drive to the rim and nobody could stop him."

Being versatile is what helped Buckley earn several awards for this season and also helped him become part of the first team All-State for Oklahoma, the first ever from Kellyville.

Photo courtesy/Coach Joe Ballard

Pictured above from left to right are Rogers State University Men's Basketball Coach Justin Barkley, Kellyville Men's Basketball Coach Joe Ballard, Jonathan Buckley with his mother, Sheri Jones.

"I would love to say I am the reason that Jonathan did so well," Ballard said. "It is not though. Everything that Jonathan received, he has earned. He has made Kellyville very proud. I am very proud of what he has done for my team and I know he will do great at the next level."

His new coach at Rogers State University is Coach Justin Barkley. Barkley had some great things to say about his new recruit.

"I couldn't be happier signing Buckley," Barkley said. "We are getting a great basketball player, but a better character young man, the kind that we want in our program. Buckley really caught my attention, when I had a chance to recruit him throughout the year. He has the tremendous upside of athleticism and we are expecting great things from him. He will have a bright future in a Hillcat uniform."

"I'm ready to play next year at Rogers State," Buckley said. "Even after the season was over, I wanted to get back in they gym and get ready for next season."

Buckley is undecided where his major is concerned but he is looking forward to the next step in his basketball career. As always he is preparing himself, and practicing 110 percent.

Buckley's parents are Sheri Jones and Jackie Buckley.

Emvponayv

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — A couple of major land purchases have put Creeks back in control of lands we once owned. Take it back, a chunk at a time.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) has spent millions to buy Riverwalk Crossing in Jenks and the Okmulgee Country Club.

Plans are to develop some tenants for the Riverwalk and diversify the economic foundation for the tribe. That's a good plan 'cause you don't want to put all your economic eggs in one basket (or two baskets: gaming and tobacco). Folks said that the former Riverwalk managers put too high a price tag on their space and a set of tenants that were too pricey for the average visitors. Could be that had some truth and would bear some attention when the tribal managers get to a new slate of businesses there. Maybe there's room for some sort of tribal business or gift shop?

Meanwhile, the country club that once excluded people of color now is owned by people of color—us. What kind of changes are on tap for this place? That's a lot of land for people to chase little white balls around still. There was talk of veteran's housing. Wouldn't that be a table-turner to make a former private retreat into something far more public?

A group of Muscogee people are planning to retrace the route taken by the Creek people on the Trail of Tears. The tour commenced June 2 at the Ocmulgee Mounds in Macon, Ga., and is to conclude at the Creek Nation Festival in Okmulgee, Saturday, June 23. They'll really be hard pressed to make the trip these days on bicycles. Just think, though, our ancestors did it on foot.

Are you Creek or Euchee and think you got what it takes to perform on stage? Here's your chance. The MCN is hosting it's own contest, "Creeks Got Talent." Singers, dancers, comedians and other acts will perform Saturday, June 16. At the lounge, the winner will get a headline booking at the River Spirit Mystic River (try saying that three times fast!).

Did you listen in May 16 to the hour long call-in Mvskoke Radio show with Chief Tiger on KOKL? That was a new program designed to give Creek citizens a chance to directly ask questions of the Chief on live radio. The concept is still kinda new to our people so there weren't quite the number of calls that were hoped for. However, there was some good discussion generated by the show. It will continue and the list of guests appearing will grow. You are invited to participate in the next one, still to be announced. Hope you'll call in.

Creek Festival is coming up in late June, are you getting excited? Gladys Knight (no Pips left) and the Temptations. Great time and it's free!

And Still the Waters Run: *The Dine and other Native American tribes*

George Windes
CMCA Historian

YORBA LINDA, Calif., — Ever few months, I try to write a column regarding a subject close to my heart. This month I will do that again. I, as a Creek man, will share my love and ties to the Dine' (Navajo) people. I am not alone in admiration, our former Second Chief, Alfred Berryhill, married a Navajo maiden and lived on the Arizona Reservation as a young man. Someday I plan to show him my two hundred photos of Dine' subjects, hoping he may recognize someone he knew or see a place he once sojourned in.

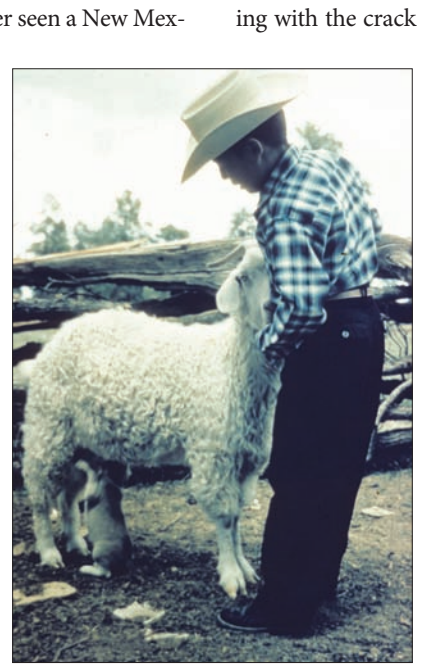
Raised as a Christian, missionaries often shared their experiences in Long Beach. So after two years of college, I determined to be an itinerant (traveling) missionary to the Navajo Indians. It would be a life-changing decision for me. I would learn real discipline and garner patience. I would witness poverty/death. Most importantly, I would learn love of people, of culture, and of a forgotten land. Even the quiet ruins of the Anasazi (the ancient ones) became important in my quest for knowledge. As in all Native cultures, the words of the elders fed me and taught me respect.

The conditions were harsh. Half the babies died the first year of their life, mostly taken by pneumonia. Getting expectant mothers to BIA hospitals became a priority, and sometimes births took place on the front seat of pickups. We always seemed to be burying more people than were baptized. Grave side services were very common, with crying families surrounding simple pine boxes we made. The reservation roads filled with mud and snow in winter, with drifting sand in the summer. Shovels and cut sagebrush was kept in pickups to help us dig out of deep ruts and holes.

Certainly there were rewards. Anyone who has ever seen a New Mexico sunset will appreciate my words. The most beautiful vision of course, were the Dine' (the people) themselves. There were mutton barbecues and the huge Gallup ceremonial. There were big rodeos and tribal dances. Medicine men laughed at our Navajo and shared ancient stories with us. Occasionally boxes of homegrown vegetables would appear on our table after the women's group met at church and noted we had little food. I remember a full week on overly ripe potatoes and hot yellow peppers once. We were young, tough and optimistic though. The basketball hoops got used a lot behind the chapel, when sore trials mounted up.

Photos courtesy/*George Windes*
Navajo boys being boys. Pictured below is a Navajo boy with sheep and dog, getting free meal.

I labored for months in a tiny church off the old highway 66 near the Continental Divide. Come evening (especially when weather was harsh), entire families walking several miles from the crossroads would bang on our door asking for help. We had a little stove in our coat room and would fire it up and bring out numerous blankets. We'd bring a bucket of water with a dipper and share a little food if we had some (mostly baked potatoes). Sometimes our visitors would overflow into the chapel to sleep on our pews. In the morning they were always gone, leaving with the crack of dawn, in the Navajo tradition.



Sheep dipping was an important duty. Helping find children who needed to be in school as well. We took youth groups to the local mountains and taught swimming at Blue Water Lake. We also taught respectful dancing. I will never forget when Mr. Alfred Paywa (actually a Zuni), asked me to help him butcher a sheep by his ancient pueblo one Saturday. I was a city boy remember? I grew up a lot that day.

Another absolute joy on the Rez was promoting and teaching boy scouting. Every small village I lived in, I was quickly recruited to lead (as scout master) the scouting program. The boys were naturals at it, often teaching me how to fine-tune the same to the Navajo experience. I recall a reservation-wide jamboree at Window Rock. The bridges and towers the boys built were totally awesome.

I was born and raised in the County of Los Angeles. Thus I only knew of Native life from an urban tradition and not without some negative connotations (read my dark column entitled Uncle Mortimer – October 2010). Witnessing Indian life in a rural settling (the Rez) broadened my perspective (though not without some negativism as well). Over all, the dual experience brought me a vision and means so much as I teach and reflect on Native American issues today.

I currently attend a monthly breakfast for Native American men at Bell Gardens Indian Revival Church. About half are Muscogee Creek and the other half are Navajos (with an occasional Apache, Chickasaw or Choctaw throw in). I am equally at home with all groups and consider them my people. During sharing time, if anyone has suffered a loss or is much troubled in life, we are united in our affirmations of love and concern. One blood brother (my twin John) and several other Creeks from the California Muscogee Creek Association (notably Allen Mitchell) join me there. We are all connected. It is beautiful and it is funny and it is absolutely right on.

Mvto for sharing this important part of my life.

Windes has been an active member of the California Muscogee Creek Association for over a decade and is serving on the Board as historian. He may be reached at: georgewindes@gmail.com

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Coming and Going in Indian Country

Joy Harjo
MNN Contributor

OKMULGEE — What is fresh in my mind is the circle of intent that brought me back home. I returned to be helpful to the people. I've been considering how best to proceed. It has been difficult to find an opening. One of the most powerful resources in the Creek Nation is our people's expression in arts, from oratory to music, from painting and drawing to dancing. We excel in both the traditional and contemporary realms.

I left home as a teenager to gain knowledge about the arts and the many indigenous cultures around this country, even the world. I was inspired by the paintings of my grandmother, Naomi Harjo Foster, and my aunt Lois Harjo Ball, who painted and also worked on behalf of the arts and cultures of the Nation at the Creek Council House. I am a practicing artist in several arts including writing, music, theater and photography. I have been a member of the National Council of the Arts, a Presidential appointed position, and for the last six years have been a founding trustee of the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation, a national native organization that supports the arts and cultures of American Indians, Alaska Natives and Hawaiians.

I don't write this to brag. My list of failures is much longer and if I started writing them I'd go way past my column length! I write this because I want to be of service to my Mvskoke people. And I am not the only one; there are many of us. We each have skills to offer. I am just trying to figure out how to do this in the current atmosphere of the times. For years I have been involved in many conversations with our tribal people about a collective vision of arts and cultures for our Nation. Back in the Eighties, Helen Chalakee Burgess and I started a Muscogee Nations Arts Council and gave out an award to Louis Littlecoon Oliver for his accomplishments in poetry. Ted Isham and I have had long, involved discussions. And a few days ago Julian B and I spoke on the phone about musical support and recording for the Nation's members.

We need to come together and speak about this and develop a vision for our people. Our arts carry the timeless spirit of who we are--. Our arts are how we will know ourselves now and in the future. Please give me a call if you're interested and we will figure out a time and a place to meet, somewhere between Tulsa and Okmulgee. I can be found at joy.harjo@gmail.com, and 505-918-7755.

Maybe we could have a meeting during the Creek Nation Festival and include our tribal members from outside the boundaries of the Nation.

Please come and celebrate with me for the publication of my memoir, Crazy Brave, from W.W. Norton. The party (with live music, a DJ playing funk and soul) will be June 12 at the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame. And remember, each person is a work of art. Every day we refine the shape. Each one of us matters.

Mvto.

MCN School Clothing Program applications now available

Media Release
MCN Social Services

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation School Clothing Program 2012/2013, will be accepting applications for school clothing beginning Monday, May 7, 2012.

Applications will only be accepted until the deadline of Oct. 26, 2012 at 5 p.m.

This program is open to all Muscogee (Creek) citizen students no matter where they live in the United States.

The guidelines of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation School Clothing Program are as follows:

• New this year - only one application per family will be accepted!

• Child must have been previously enrolled as a Muscogee (Creek) citizen before making application. You must submit copies of each child's Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Card or a print out from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Office.

• The student must be at least three years old and enrolled in a certified Head Start (not a day care) or be four years old and enrolled in a public/private school program, pre-K through the 12th grade. All students Head Start through 12th grade must have a school official complete the School Enrollment Form that will be provided with the application. Home schooled children ages 5-18 are also eligible and must provide accredited curriculum or original receipts of textbooks purchased, and a notarized affidavit (also must be signed by the individual providing the education). The affidavit will be provided with the application.

• The primary custodial parent or legal guardian must complete the application.

Applications may be picked up at the following locations:

• The School Clothing Program office, located behind the Social Services building at 2971 N. Wood Drive, Okmulgee, OK 74447

• Any MCN Child Development Center

• Any MCN Indian Community Center

• An application is available for download at: www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov

• Call 918-549-2473 or toll free at 1-800-482-1979 for an application to be mailed or faxed directly.

All applications must be returned or mailed to: School Clothing Program, P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK. 74447.

Please do not fax or e-mail the application. We must have original documentation submitted to process applications.

For more information, please contact the School Clothing Program at 918-549-2473 or toll free at 1-800-482-1979, ext. 2473.

MCN Social Services Elder AC Program now available

Media Release
MCN Social Services

OKMULGEE — The air conditioner program provides window units for enrolled Creek citizens 60 years of age or older who have no air conditioning or existing air conditioning is inadequate.

Those under 60 years of age who suffer from or are otherwise prone to chronic illness are also eligible to apply. Both renters and homeowners may apply. Citizens are responsible for pick up and installation of air conditioners.

Guidelines:

1. Must be an enrolled Muscogee (Creek) tribal member

2. At least one member of the household must be considered as vulnerable:

A. Elder – 60 years or older

B. Medically needy as determined by a qualified health practitioner

Required Documents

• Air Conditioner application (may be completed at office or downloaded from MCN website)

• Citizenship cards for all household members (CDIB cards not accepted)

• If medically needy, a statement from a medical doctor of medical necessity

• Notarized statement from a non-family member that the applicant's home has no air conditioner or existing air conditioner is inadequate

• Additional documents may be required based on individual circumstances

For questions or additional information contact Social Services at 918-549-2445 or 1-800-482-1979.

MCN Social Services Energy Assistance Program now available

Media Release
MCN Social Services

OKMULGEE — We will be accepting applications by mail or fax for past participants only in May. We will NOT have appointments.

Applications for new applicants will begin on June 1, 2012. To help us process the application quickly, please submit a copy of the following documents required to determine eligibility:

LIHEAP Participants

• Current electric bill (must be in applicant and/or spouse's name)

• Citizenship card(s) or CDIB card(s) for all household members; if non-native, include driver's license or birth certificate

• Social Security card(s) for all household members

• Income or lack of income for all household members 18 years or older (check stub, unemployment benefits verification, and food stamp or commodities verification will be accepted)

•Written statement stating: I, _____, authorize Creek Nation Social Services to sign my application on my behalf. I have not received assistance for my cooling bill from any other agency, community center, etc., within the past 12 months. Applicant must sign, date, and leave a phone number.

Tribal Energy Participants

• Current electric bill (must be in applicant and/or spouse's name)

• Citizenship card(s) for all household members; if non-native, include driver's license or birth certificate

• Social Security card(s) for all household members

• Written statement stating: I, _____, authorize Creek Nation Social Services to sign my application on my behalf. Applicant must sign, date, and leave a phone number.

Once the applicant has received an approval letter, he/she will need to bring the approval letter to the office on any Friday in June or July to pick up their Educational Material bag.

For questions or additional information contact Social Services at 918-549-2445 or 1-800-482-1979.

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For more information contact: Tammi Reed-Barnett
at (918)732-7883 OR email: tammirb@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

Wetumka Head Start now accepting applications for 2012-2013

Media Release
MCN Head Start

WETUMKA — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Head Start in Wetumka is now accepting applications for the 2012-2013 school year. The head start is located at 333 S. Washita, in Wetumka and the phone number is 405-452-1180.

Hours of operation are 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Monday through Friday with the morning bus route starting at 8 a.m.

Transportation will be provided for pick-up and drop-off.

Requirements for the program include: parents income verification, (last year's income tax, pay stubs, W-2 form, TANF letter, SSI Letter, or statement from employer), child's immunization record, child's medical card, child's CDIB (if applicable) child's birth certificate, child's social security card.

The center supervisor and lead teacher have a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Development and Education. The teacher has been in the field for over 29 years and the center supervisor has been in head start for over 17 years. The teacher assistant has a Child Development Associates degree (CDA).

The Head Start Program is a comprehensive program that emphasizes child development. The program prepares children to start public school with a willingness to learn. With children starting Head Start before going into public school, statistics show a wide improvement in all areas of learning. The program also works in partnership with the parents and families so they can be self-sufficient and advocates for the children.

The head start works with the children to teach respect, communicate and get along with others, while developing friendships and trust. We help each child accept and take pride in him/her self and to develop a sense of independence. Head start centers also provide a variety of activities and opportunities to promote physical development and fitness of children indoor and outdoor in fine motor and gross motor development. Activities encouraging observation, experimentation and problem solving appropriate to the individual development levels and learning styles of each child are also offered.

For more information, contact Janice Birdcreek at 405-452-1180.

Muscogee (Creek) Adoption Series Part III: Single Parent Adopter

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE — "It wasn't really something I was going to do at first," said Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Manager Nathan Wilson about his intent to adopt.

Wilson explained the circumstances that lead him toward adoption as a single parent.

"They are family; they are actually my first cousin's kids. So I knew the situation when they got put in DHS [Department of Human Services] custody. I wasn't even planning on getting them."

"These kids were put in a shelter the weekend after Christmas. At the time, I decided I wanted to do it. I had never thought about fostering kids, it just happened," he said.

Wilson, 31, has been employed with MCN for five years and has held his position as Citizenship Manager for over a year.

Wilson currently has three children he cares for; two younger siblings he adopted from a family member and his older biological child. He talked about the unique challenge he faces as a single parent of multiple children.

"The challenge right now being single and having kids is just trying to find time to do everything for all of them. The four-year-old just started playing t-ball so as soon as I leave here I've got to go straight there. It's just time, we're always on the go," said Wilson.

He is not without help, however. Wilson's two adopted children are two of five total siblings adopted by him and two other friends. He described the support network this has provided for both him and his children.

"We let the kids see each other and we take turns watching each other's kids so they can still be together every now and then. That is kind of our way out. We take turns so we can kind of have a break. That is the hardest thing, to find time for yourself," said Wilson.

Grounding them in the culture of their native heritage only furthers this support network.

"My kids are half Hispanic, half Creek. The church we attend is an Indian Church, and we still sing our native hymns. We take them to ceremonial grounds; I think it is very important to do that. To let them know where they come from, the traditions, and the language," said Wilson.

He pointed out the most important value he instills in his children.

"Respect, I want my kids to respect me and any adult out there. That's the main thing, I want my kids to be polite to anyone they see. That way, people come back to me and say 'your kids are some good kids,' " said Wilson.

Of the challenges he has faced, Wilson says integrating his adoptive kids into his existing home was not one of them.

"Because we're all kin anyways, I guess that's probably what helps out. I don't think I would have had any problem even if they were not blood, but I didn't have any problem. My family accepted them, the people at church accepted them, and they were around beforehand," he said.

"I would do it again," he said. Wilson says there have been times where he wondered if he made the right decision but now he says it has paid off. In fact, after his experience he says he would like to be able to help more children.

"If I had more room now I would foster more kids. I just feel sorry for the kids that are out there. Some of them don't have a family to go to, they don't have a home and they are in a shelter," he said.

Wilson has some words for anyone thinking about adoption.

"I would tell them, if they have the patience and the time, to do it," he said.

He pointed out the greatest reward he has noticed as an adoptive parent.

"It's just seeing the boys happy, that is the best thing I guess, just seeing them happy," said Wilson.

DISTRICT COURT
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2012 MAY 4 PM 3 36
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In re the Paternity of KALEB CURTIS HICKS:

KOLEPAH BERRYHILL,
Petitioner,

and

RYAN CURTIS HICKS,
Respondent.

Case No. CV-2011-158

Judge of the District Court

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Ryan Curtis Hicks

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued to Determine Paternity, Custody, Visitation and Support in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. CV-2011-158, styled In re the Paternity of K.C.H. born January 21, 2010, Petitioner, Kolepah Berryhill and Respondent, Ryan Cutis Hicks. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to a Paternity Determination and Order for Custody, Child Support and Visitation.

You are notified that you must answer the *Amended Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear at the hearing on the 17th day of July 2012 at 1:30 o'clock p.m. Failure to respond and/or attend will result in the allegations contained in the *Amended Petition* being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in her *Amended Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 4th day of May, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District

By: Dobie King
(Deputy)

(SEAL)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT
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2012 MAY 15 PM 2 13
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

In re the marriage of:

SARIA LYNN GEARY,
Petitioner,

vs.

YASSER GEHA,
Respondent.

Case No. DV-2012-26

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Yasser Geha

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for divorce in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. DV-2012-26, styled In re the Marriage of Saria Lynn Geary, Petitioner and Yasser Geha, Respondent. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to a *Decree of Dissolution of Marriage* from you based on the grounds of incompatibility.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear at the hearing on the 17th day of July 2012 at 1:30 o'clock p.m. Failure to respond and/or attend will result in the allegations contained in the *Petition* being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in his *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 15th day of May, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District

By: Dobie King
(Deputy)

(SEAL)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

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2012 MAY 3 PM 3 05
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF:

NELSON HARJO,
Petitioner,

vs.

SUSAN CHRISTINE HARJO,
Respondent.

Case No. DV 2011-129

Gregory Bigler
Judge of the District Court

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: **Susan Christine Harjo**

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for divorce in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. DV-2011-129, styled In re the Marriage of: Nelson Harjo, Petitioner vs. Susan Christine Harjo, Respondent. The action alleges that the Petitioner is entitled to a *Decree of Dissolution of Marriage* from you based on the grounds of incompatibility.

You are notified that you must appear at the hearing on the 19th day of June, 2012 at 1:30 p.m. Failure to attend will result in the allegations contained in the Petition being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of Petitioner as prayed for in the *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 3rd day of May, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District

By: Dobie King
(Deputy)

(SEAL)
Approved:
Kurt K. Townsend, MCN#642
Shannon L. Prescott, MCN#165
Courtney L. Eagan-Smith, MCN#543
Gregory N. Hope, MCN#641
MCN Citizen Legal Services
114 N. Grand Ave, North Lobby
Okmulgee, OK 74447
(918) 756-1112
(918) 756-1113
Attorneys for Petitioner

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
STATE OF OKLAHOMA OKMULGEE COUNTY
The undersigned hereby certifies this instrument to be a full, true and correct copy of the orginal,

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT
FILED
2012 MAY 15 PM 2 16
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATIO
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

In re the marriage of LOPEZ:

KATHERINE ELIZABETH LOPEZ,
Petitioner,

vs.

CESAR EDUARDO CHACON-LOPEZ
Respondent.

Case No. DV-2012-51

Judge of the District Court

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Cesar Eduardo Chacon-Lopez

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for divorce in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. DV-2012-51, styled In re the Marriage of Katherine Elizabeth Lopez, Petitioner and Cesar Eduardo Chacon-Lopez, Respondent. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to a *Decree of Dissolution of Marriage* from you based on the grounds of incompatibility.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear at the hearing on the 17th day of July 2012 at 1:30 o'clock p.m. Failure to respond and/or attend will result in the allegations contained in the *Petition* being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in her *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 15th day of May, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District

By: Shalon McClendon
(Deputy)

(SEAL)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT
FILED
2012 MAR 30 PM 1 57
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

IN THE MATTER OF:

T.T., DOB: 08/25/2006
N.T., DOB: 06-16-01
A.T., DOB: 03-28-03

Alleged Deprived Children.

Case No. CV-2009-65

NOTICE OF HEARING TO:

Wesley Taylor, Natural Father

YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that a Petition to Terminate Parental Rights has been filed against you in the above-styled and numbered cause and will be heard in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the 19th day of June 2012 at 9:30 a.m..

YOU ARE HEREBY INFORMED that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the children remain wards of the Court and custody be continued in the Children and Family Services Administration for continued foster placement of possible pre-adoptive placement. **YOU ARE FUTHER INFORMED** that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.

IF YOU FAIL TO ATTEND THIS HEARING, YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS MAY BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED AND YOU MAY BE CITED FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT AND A BENCH WARRANT MAY BE ISSUED FOR YOUR ARREST.

JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

Know the items that could indicate a meth lab:

- measuring cups
- antifreeze containers
- papers, notes, "recipes"
- plastic storage containers
- coffee filters (especially red/ pink-stained)
- rubber tubing/ gloves
- aluminum foil
- funnels
- blenders
- thermometers
- glassware
- duct tape
- thermos bottles and propane tanks
- heat sources like hotplates or microwaves

Montana State University Extension
*Tribal **M**eth **E**ducation **T**raining & **H**elp Center*

National Congress of American Indians

METH. In Tribal Communities

Sunday June 17th NOON - 5:00PM
Every male Diamond Club member will receive a $10 match play.

1:30PM - 3:30PM
(7) $50 free play drawings and (1) $250 cash prize drawings every ½ hour.

4:00PM
(7) $50 free play drawings, (1) $250 cash prize drawing, (2) $500 cash prize drawings.

Saturday June 23rd NOON - 9:00PM
$10 match play

1:30PM - 8:30PM
(7) $100 Hot Seat prize drawings every ½ hour.

1:30PM - 7:00PM
(1) $250 cash hot seat prize drawing every ½ hour.

7:30PM and 8:00PM
$1,000 cash hot seat prize drawings

8:30PM
$5,000 cash hot seat prize drawing

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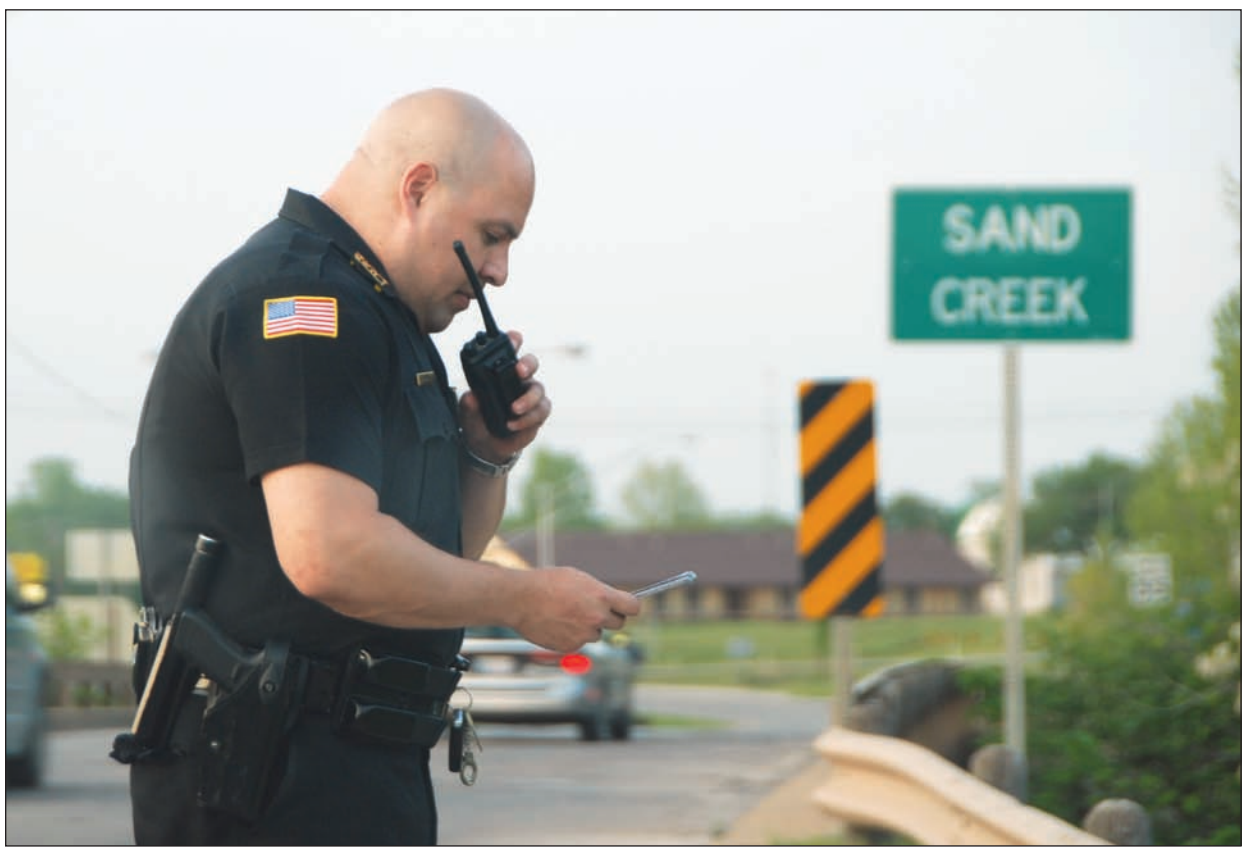
Lighthorse Part II: Wild Onions, Glocks and PR



MNN/*Darren DeLaune*

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Officer Matt Henneha calls in license plates and patrols the jurisdictional boundaries as part of his evening duties.

Darren DeLaune
MNN Feature Writer

OKMULGEE — A Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse ride-along with tribal officer #118 Matt Henneha took place April 10, 2012 from 3-11 p.m.

Henneha is from Okemah, Okla. He is of the Wind Clan and his tribal town is Nuyaka. He has been with the Lighthorse Police for three years and previously worked for the city of Jenks as a police officer and has a degree in criminal/sociology.

"I was out of law enforcement about a year and a half," Henneha said. "The bug came back and I wanted to help people again. And what better way to help my people and help my tribe at the same time," he said.

Henneha explained how Lighthorse utilizes the 'MobileCop,' which is a mobile dispatcher inside the vehicle. It is used to check warrants, run car tags to check if they are stolen and to let headquarters and other officers know of their location.

'MobileCop' helps take the stress off the dispatcher at headquarters.

"The 'MobileCop' is a great thing for our law enforcement," Henneha said. "We can run the tags on here without bothering dispatch at headquarters. And if we are needing to assist other officers in the area, they can find out on the 'MobileCop' if we are near that location."

Henneha was on the radio throughout the shift letting headquarters know his location. He informed dispatch each time he entered another county in case he was needed on a call.

A normal shift for a patrol officer is property checks and patrolling the casinos, as well as being on standby in case fellow officers need assistance. He carries a Glock 40-caliber 22 model while on duty.

"We [Lighthorse Police] are public relations," Henneha said. "We are making a presence to let our citizens know that we are around if they need us."

When crossing over from Tulsa to Creek County, the 'MobileCop' is making quite a bit of noise. Henneha explains that it is not only for officers in Lighthorse, but all officers in the northeast part of Oklahoma. A majority of the alerts 'MobileCop' updates are traffic related stops from Oklahoma Highway Patrol (OHP).

Henneha stops at the Bristow Casino first. He does a drive-through around the parking lot, looking for anything out of place and running tags on vehicles.

"Cadillacs and Hondas are the top two vehicles that are stolen," Henneha said.

There are a couple of vehicles that Henneha runs the car tags to make sure they are not stolen, or if the owner does not have any warrants on them. If a vehicle were to come back stolen, the screen on the 'MobileCop' would blink red.

When not on-duty, Henneha said he has hobbies like everyone else. He can spot wild onions anywhere and enjoys preparing them.

"When I am not 10-8, I am either golfing or cooking," Henneha said. "I like to play a lot of blackjack and I feel I contribute to the casinos when I am at the [blackjack] table."

Lighthorse conducts property checks on housing editions, casinos, community centers, churches and ceremonial grounds while on duty.

Henneha conducts more property checks in the Sapulpa area and ends up at River Spirit Casino in Tulsa. Henneha does a walk through and talks with some of the customers and personnel.

It is the end of Henneha's shift and as he drives back to Okmulgee, he shares something all officers can relate to.

"At the end of our shift, we should be exhausted, both mentally and physically, even if the only thing we did is patrol the whole shift," Henneha said. "Throughout this whole shift, our awareness level should be at our highest peak. We should be alert at all times."

Part III of the MNN Lighthorse story will be in the next edition of the MNN.

Cancer Care Community Education offered in Sapulpa through August

Media Release
MCN Division of Health

SAPULPA — The Native Navigators will host cancer continuum sessions in the northern area of MCN at the Sapulpa Creek Indian Community Center. The workshops will begin with a Family Fun Event June 9, 2012, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The educational session will be held June 12 - Aug. 2, Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. Attached is a schedule of the educational workshops.

The 12 educational workshops will continue through Aug. 2, 2012.

The navigators are Loretta Denny (918) 441-6049 and Patricia Coachman (918) 441-6048, office (918) 758-2710. Debra Isham is the project manager.

Everyone 18 years or older will receive a $10 gift card after each session for participation.

Location: Sapulpa Creek Indian Community Center at 1020 N. Brown, Sapulpa, Okla.

Dates: June 12 – Aug. 2, 2012

Time: 6 – 8 p.m.

Family Fun Event - Saturday, June 9 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Overview:

Tuesday, June 12 - Cancer 100

Prevention:

Thursday, June 14 – Energy Balance

Tuesday, June 19 – Healthy Eating

Tuesday, June 26 – Exposure to Environmental Contaminants

Early Detection:

Thursday, June 28 – Get on the Path to Breast Health

Thursday, July 5 – Get on the Path to Colon Health

Tuesday, July 17 – Get on the Path to Prostate Health

Thursday, July 19 – Get on the Path to Cervix Health

Tuesday, July 24 - Get on the Path to Lung Health

Survivorship:

Thursday, July 26 – Side Effects (NACES)

Tuesday, July 31– Survivors' Support Circles

Comfort/Palliative Care:

Thursday, August 2 – Wills & Advance Directive

For more information, call 918-441-6048 or 918-441-6049.

MCN Citizenship Office adopts new policies

Media Release
MCN Citizenship Board

OKMULGEE — The Nation's Citizenship Board under the authority granted by (M(C)NCA) Title 7, § 2-109. A. has created policies and procedures.

The purpose of the policies and procedures is to provide an administrative framework for internal operational procedures, including, but not limited to, rules for the review of citizenship applications, for hearings and appeals, and such other purposes necessary for the efficient performance of the Citizenship Board's operations.

A public hearing was held March 8, 2012 to discuss the policies and procedures, which are now available for review at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Office located at the tribal complex in Okmulgee, Okla.

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VASO / Smithsonian exhibit extended through July 6, 2012

Media Release
MCN Museum & Cultural Center

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Museum & Cultural Center announced extended dates for the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) Native Words, Native Warriors exhibition. The exhibition will be on display in the Veterans' Building located on the MCN Complex through July 6, 2012. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

Native Words, Native Warriors honors Native American soldiers who developed coded messages using their Native languages in WWI and WWII. While the Code Talkers' messages were never deciphered and provided an invaluable weapon on the battlefield, their contributions were not recognized until the U.S. government declassified the Navajo and Comanche code talker programs decades after WWII. The exhibition also showcases other tribes that participated in the code talker program such as the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Assiniboine, Cherokee, Choctaw, Cree, Crow, Dakota, Lakota, Kiowa, Oneida, Pawnee, and Seminole.

The Smithsonian NMAI and the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Services (SITES), with generous support of Elizabeth Hunter Solomon, produced the exhibition. Additional support has been provided by the Smithsonian's Women's Committee and the AMB Foundation.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Museum & Cultural Center and the Muscogee Veterans Affairs Services Office (VASO) have also developed a supplemental multi-banner display, which further honors our own Muscogee (Creek) warriors and their service in the U.S. military. These banners showcase Muscogee (Creek) soldiers who have served, and continue to serve, in every branch of the military throughout every American war and conflict to date.

For visitors who have already seen the exhibit, VASO has added additional banner displays and erected two new memorial statues recognizing our "Fallen Soldiers" and "Prisoners of War." VASO is a venue that compliments the Native Words, Native Warriors exhibition as it is dedicated to telling the history and stories of our Muscogee (Creek) veterans. VASO houses display cases with military memorabilia, photographs, medals and other objects donated or loaned by the friends and families of Muscogee (Creek) veterans.

The Native Words, Native Warriors exhibition is open from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Additional operational hours have been added to view the exhibition Saturday, June 23, 2012 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

All adult and School groups are invited and encouraged to come visit the FREE exhibition. For more information please call VASO: (918) 732-7744.

Native Words, Native Warriors website: http://nmai.si.edu/education/codetalkers/

Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian: http://nmai.si.edu/home/

McCulley named featured artist; prepares for 2012 art festival

SAMUEL CHECOTE
Creek Council House Museum
Grave 1.5 miles N.W.
This noted Creek leader, b. 1819 Ala., had attended old Asbury Mission before he came to Ind. Ty. He was a Methodist preacher for 32 years till his death, 1884. He served as Lieut. Col. First Regt. Creek Mounted Vols., C.S.A. during the Civil War. Elected for his first term as Principal Chief, Creek Nation, in 1867.

MNN/Rebecca Landsberry

Bill McCulley will be the 2012 Creek Council House Featured Artist at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival where he will showcase his award-winning work.

Gerald Wofford
MNN Feature Writer

OKMULGEE — Bill McCulley will be the featured artist at the 2012 Indian Art Festival during the month of June at the Creek Council House Museum.

"It's a great honor," says McCulley, "I am looking forward to being a part of this year's festivities."

The talented Creek-Seminole artist, whose work has been seen all over the country, has worked hard to reach the level where he is today.

In 2003, McCulley's world did not exactly consist of creating art, although he was working on other projects in another creative type of way. McCulley was a mechanic who worked on cars and did construction work. At the time, he was making a living.

McCulley attended school at the Native American Education Institute, Jones Academy. McCulley aspired to be an artist and took art classes there. McCulley explains that at this time in his life, he was also "self taught" and the specific art format of canvas painting was something in which he excelled and enjoyed.

When he began to realize he wanted to return to art in 2003, he immediately enrolled in art classes at Tulsa Community College to continue his early passion, a passion that never left him.

The hard work along with commitment and God-given talent began to pay off. McCulley became more involved with art and began to teach his daughter, Danielle, how to paint, especially on black slate.

"I was showing my daughter, Danielle, how to do art on rocks and my wife told me to pursue painting on black slate rocks more often. McCulley admitted to himself that the "contrasting colors looked real good" and the more he dabbled, the more he liked what he saw.

Others began to take notice too. MuCulley's art is in personal collections throughout the United States and other countries.

Today, McCulley's art is in black slate as well as canvas. He works with many different mediums, oils, acrylic, watercolor and pencil on canvas, stone and wood and creates glass etchings.

He was honored when he was commissioned in 2008 by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to create a Mural "Muscogee Seasons" for the new River Spirit Casino in Tulsa.

He has also been the featured artist of the Oklahoma City's 2006-2007 Red Feather Galas. He has collected many awards including Best of Show and First Place, for his slate rock art, "The Evictions," in the Southeastern Tribes Cultural Festival in Cherokee, N.C. He has been awarded First, Second, and third places, and Honorable Mentions in different categories for the Southeastern Tribes Cultural Festival, Five Civilized Tribes Museum, and Tulsa Community College's Art Talentship Award.

Art classes with groups such as the Boy Scouts and the Okmulgee Youth Group is something that McCulley also enjoys doing. As part of the festival activities this year McCulley conducted a slate rock art class for kids May 26 at the Creek Council House Museum. This event as well the Indian Art Festival coincides with the 38th annual Creek Nation Festival June 23.

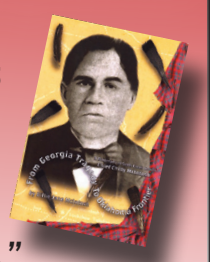
The Indian Art Festival will showcase local and national Native American artists with booths, exhibits and displays on the lawn of the museum. The museum will also be conducting a juried art competition June 1. Entries will be shown during the month of June and the festival.

The Creek Council House Museum is located at 106 W. 6th Street in Okmulgee and is open to the public Tuesdays through Friday from 10-4 p.m., and Saturdays from 10-3 p.m.

For more information call 918-756- 2324.

From Georgia Tragedy to Oklahoma Frontier
A Biography of Scots Creek Indian Chief Chilly McIntosh
by Muscogee (Creek) author Billie Jane McIntosh

- Chilly McIntosh Family
- Photos, maps and documents
- Muscogee Creek tribal history 1800-1875
  - Alabama
  - Georgia
  - Indian Territory



"Best overview and description of the murder of William McIntosh, Jr."
-Dr. Gary L. McIntosh, Calif.

To purchase through American History Press call 888-521-1789 or for a signed copy, include $19 plus $3 postage to: Billie Jane McIntosh, 2315 W. Trail Blazer Dr., Cottonwood, AZ 86326 or call 928-649-9797.

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MoTown stars to headline 38th annual Festival

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — Stars from the sound of MoTown will be headlining the 38th annual Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival this June.

Gladys Knight and The Temptations will be sharing their respective lists of hits for festivalgoers June 23, 2012 at the Claude Cox Amphitheater.

Knight has enjoyed a musical career spanning more than 50 years and has eight Grammy Awards to her name. Knight, known for chart-topping hits such as "Midnight Train to Georgia" has produced 38 albums, worked with top musical artists and appeared in a number of movies. She has also won a long list of awards for her humanitarian work. Knight recently completed appearances on the TV program. "Dancing with the Stars."

The Temptations have long been a fixture on the musical scene with chart crossover hits like "My Girl," "Papa was a Rolling Stone," and dozens of others. The five member vocal/dance group has been performing since 1961 and delighting audiences around the world.

The concert along with many more events are free and open to the public. The Festival is composed of sports tournaments, Native American arts festival, cultural exhibitions, a parade, rodeo, children's fun fair, arts and crafts, food and much more.

Besides the entertainment, this year's festivalgoers will see the completion of the "Ocmulgee to Okmulgee" bike ride that commemorates the tragic journey of the Muscogee people on the Trail of Tears.

The tour will commence June 2 and is expected to arrive in Okmulgee on June 23 at the Festival.

MCN Cultural Center Director John Beaver will be serving as the lead rider for the bicycle tour. His aim, he said, was to bring attention to the Muscogee removal and remember those who made the journey, "We want to pay homage to that. Not only do we have a history here in Oklahoma, it extends to both Georgia and Alabama. We have a long proud history there."

The riders will be making stops at historically significant places, presenting 'living classrooms' to educate residents and visitors along the way. The ride will be filmed for a documentary by the staff of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Museum.

Anyone interested in competing in the sports tournaments or entering a float in the parade should complete an application available on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation websitewww.muscogeenation-nsn.gov.

All food vendor spaces are filled. Arts and crafts vendor spaces are available. Contact Brian On-The-Hill at (918) 732-7993.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival is a collaborative effort of MCN departments and entities with operations overseen by the MCN Tourism & Recreation Department.

Friday, June 8
7:00p.m. Muscogee Nation Scholarship Pageant

Friday, June 15
5:00p.m. Slow Pitch Softball Tournament

Saturday, June 16
8:00a.m. Slow Pitch Softball Tournament
9:00 Adult 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament
11:00 Muscogee Royalty Reception
Council House Museum

Sunday, June 17
8:00a.m. Slow Pitch Softball Tournament

Thursday, June 21
Noon Corn Stalk Range Open, W. of Mound
7:30p.m. Stomp Dance—MCN Complex

Friday, June 22
8:00a.m. Golf Tournament (4-Man Scramble)
Fountainhead, HWY 150, Checotah, OK
Junior Olympics—601 E. 12th St
Senior Citizens Activities
Senior Housing, Polokse Circle
9:00 Traditional Skills—MCN Complex
10:00 Children's Fun Fair
5:00p.m. Arts & Crafts/Food Vendors
6:00 Fast Pitch Softball Tournament
6:30-9:00 All-Indian Rodeo
9:00 **ELI YOUNG BAND**

Saturday, June 23
7:00a.m. Golf Tournament (4-Man Scramble)
Fountainhead Golf Course
8:00 5k Walk/Run
Fast Pitch Softball Tournament
Horseshoe Tournament
9:00 Youth 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament
Children's Corn Stalk Shoot,
W. of Mound
Volleyball Tournament
All-Indian Rodeo Slack
9:00-Noon Safety Seat Check - N. Entrance
MCN Complex
10-3:00p.m. Council House Indian Art Festival
10:00a.m. Festival Parade, 6th Street
Children's Fun Fair
11:00 Arts & Crafts/Food Vendors
Noon-7p.m. MCN Citizen Ford Fusion Sign-up
2-6:00p.m. Creek Hymn Singing & Gospel
Singing—Mound Building
3:00 Traditional Corn Stalk Shoot
6:00-9:00 All-Indian Rodeo Finals
7:00 **THE TEMPTATIONS**
CAR GIVE-AWAY
9:00 **GLADYS KNIGHT**

Sunday, June 24
8:00a.m. Fast Pitch Softball Tournament

2012 Festival Schedule of Events

New Vision, Constant Values

MUSCOGEE 38 Festival 2012 NATION

Mvskokvlke Em Afvcketv

June 21-24 Okmulgee

FRI 6 • 8 Miss Muscogee Nation Pageant
FRI 6 • 15 Slow Pitch Softball Tournament
SAT 6 • 16 Adult 3on3 | Muscogee Royalty Reception | Slow Pitch Softball Tournament
Creeks Got Talent SUN 6 • 17 Slow Pitch Softball Tournament FINALS THU 6 • 21 Stomp Dance
FRI 6 • 22 Golf Tournament | Junior Olympics | Senior Activities | Fun Fair | Fast Pitch Softball Tournament | INFR Rodeo SAT 6 • 23 Youth 3on3 | 5K Run/Walk | Fast Pitch Softball Tournament | Golf Tournament | Horseshoes Corn Stalk Shoot | Volleyball | Rodeo Slack | Child Safety Seat Check | Council House Indian Art Festival | Parade | Fun Fair | Creek Hymn/Gospel Singing | INFR Rodeo Finals | SUN 6 • 24 Fast Pitch Softball Tournament FINALS

All Events are FREE and open to the public!

Claude Cox Omniplex

Awepvks!

(ah-wē′ buks) Everyone come!

GREAT SEAL OF THE MUSCOGEE NATION I.T.

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Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tourism & Recreation 918.732.7993 | 800.482.1979 www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov

Muscogee Nation News

June 15, 2012
Vol. 42, Issue 12

Official semi-monthly publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Trail of Tears Bicycle Tour kicks off in Georgia

Christina Good Voice
MCN Communications Manager

MACON, Ga. — Hundreds of Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizens descended upon the original homelands June 2, 2012 as the first Ocmulgee to Okmulgee Trail of Tears Bicycle Tour kicked off at the Ocmulgee National Monument.

The air was filled with Creek hymns sung by tribal elders, and the Creek language was spoken in prayer and words of encouragement as two citizens set off on the long journey back to Oklahoma.

John Beaver, 37, and Andrew Lowe, 68, bicycled out of the historical site with much fanfare, with about 20 guest support cyclists, and with Macon police escorts leading the way as Creek citizens, visitors and tribal officials wished them well.

Jim David, Superintendent of Ocmulgee National Monument, welcomed the Creek citizens and said he was pleased to have that many citizens at the event.

MNN/Sterling Cosper
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Second Chief Roger Barnett (right) and his son, Eco, at the Ocmulgee National Monument June 2.

"This is probably the greatest number of Muscogee citizens we've had here since the removal over more than 200 years ago," David said. "When John Beaver from the Nation first approached me in January about exploring ways to enhance the cooperation between the park and Nation, I never had any idea that it was going to result in an event as exciting as this."

David said he hopes the bicycle tour is just the beginning of the relationship, along with the planned Indian celebration of many other entities, and working with the Nation and the Muscogee people.

Beaver said the tour was conceived to honor Creek ancestors who were forced to leave their homelands in Georgia and Alabama, but it quickly evolved into something even more.

"It was developed to educate, communicate, reassert and reaffirm Muscogee (Creek) history in the southeast," Beaver said. "Muscogee (Creek) history is not about tipis, buffalo and it's not about powwows. It's about large settlements, permanent-housing structures, stomp dances, stickball and pre-advanced governing systems that well outdated the west.

"It's about our ceremonial grounds and it's also about our churches."

Giles said it was good to see all the Creek people at the event.

"This is an educational moment here," he said. "We want our children to continue on our culture and heritage and be proud of who we are and know where we are going. No one knows where they're going unless they know where they came from."

SEE TEARS - 2

68-year-old Creek citizen joins bike ride

Christina Good Voice
MCN Communications Manager

FORT MITCHELL, Ala. – Muscogee (Creek) citizen Andrew (Raymond) Lowe is quite the adventurist. He decided – with the support of his wife, Margie – to join MCN citizen John Beaver on the cross-country Ocmulgee to Okmulgee Trail of Tears Bicycle Tour. In past years, he's skied on advanced slopes, rafted on rivers, played competitive softball and ran 5K races regularly. Oh, and Lowe is 68.

At his age, most people are retiring and resting during their days, but Lowe wanted to challenge himself, and after long discussions with his wife, decided to join the bicycle tour.

The multi state tour kicked off in Macon, Ga., on June 2, and will conclude June 23 in Okmulgee, Okla.

SEE LOWE - 2

Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes returns

Rebecca Landsberry
MNN Editor

NORMAN — The Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes convened for a two-day summit June 7-8, 2012 at the Riverwind Hotel & Casino in Norman, Okla.

The organization was founded Feb. 3, 1950 and is the oldest tribal organization in the U.S. Representing three of the four largest federally recognized tribes and nearly 625,000 enrolled citizens, the organization met to consider issues currently facing tribal nations, in Oklahoma and nationally.

This was the first meeting of the Council in the traditional two-day summit format in six years.

MNN/Rebecca Landsberry
Pictured from left to right are Cherokee Nation Principal Chief and Vice Chair of the Executive Committee Bill John Baker, Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Principal Chief Leonard Harjo and Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief and Chair of the Executive Committee George Tiger.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger is the Chair of the Executive Committee and Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Bill John Baker is Vice-Chair. Other members of the Executive Committee include Chickasaw Nation Gov. Bill Anoatubby, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Chief Greg Pyle and Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Principal Chief Leonard Harjo.

The Council passed five resolutions at the general session, including one which supported the continued efforts of the Chickasaw and Choctaw to secure and maintain their water rights.

Muscogee Trail of Tears re-traced; ending at Festival

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — It's the start of a journey of over 900 miles and the goal is to recognize the struggle, suffering and history of the Muscogee people along the Trail of Tears 176 years ago.

The "Ocmulgee to Okmulgee: Muscogee (Creek) Trail of Tears Bicycle Tour" got its send-off May 31, 2012 at the MCN Veterans Memorial Plaza. The group is planning to conclude the ride at the 2012 Creek Festival.

The tour will re-trace the trail Muscogee ancestors were forced to endure, with staff members from the Muscogee Nation Museum and Cultural Center in support. John Beaver will serve as lead rider on a bicycle. A mobile support vehicle driven by Justine Giles will follow, documenting the journey from Creek ancestral lands to today's Muscogee national capitol.

The team will make stops along the route at original town and battle sites in George, Alabama, Tennessee and Arkansas. Many of those places have tragic memories attached to them for the Muscogee people.

SEE REMOVAL - 2

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MCN breaks ground on Recycling Center

5 - CAPITOL NEWS
MCN honors POWs

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Deere-Turney crowned Miss Muscogee Nation 2012-2013

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MCN Festival: Schedule of events

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MCN Festival: Saturday entertainment

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Muscogee Nation News
STAFF

Manager - Christina Good Voice
Editor - Rebecca Landsberry
Editorial Assistant - Gary Fife
Reporter - Sterling Cosper
Sports Writer - Darren DeLaune
Feature Writer - Gerald Wofford
Circulation - Wilma Lewis

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Please contact our office for deadline of submissions to be considered for inclusion. ***The Muscogee Nation News*** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate ***The Muscogee Nation News*** in any regard.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed from Stigler, Okla., to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

To submit a change of address or a letter to the editor, call (918) 732-7720 or send e-mail to: wlewis@mcn-nsn.gov

Correction to May 15 edition

Correction
MNN Staff

OKMULGEE — On page 10 of the May 15, 2012 edition of the *Muscogee Nation News*, it was incorrectly reported that NCA 12-80 passed with a vote of 13-0, however, the MCN National Council tabled the law indefinitely with a vote of 13-0.

The MNN regrets this error and any confusion it may have caused.

CMCA Gathering set for Aug. 4 in Anaheim, Calif.

Media Release
California Muscogee (Creek) Association

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The California Muscogee (Creek) Association will be hosting their annual California gathering Saturday, Aug. 4, 2012 at the Native American United Methodist Church located at 800 South Lemon, in Anaheim, Calif., (on the corner of South Street).

Representatives from several Muscogee (Creek) Nation offices will be attending the gathering where attendees will have the opportunity to learn about programs available to out-of-state citizens.

The event is free and will feature a potluck lunch.

For more information, contact Eli Grayson or George Windes.

Lowe

Continued from Page 1

"I was joking around with my wife and said, 'maybe I ought to do that,'" he said.

But being a part of the tour was just part of his motivation. He also wanted to see the historical sites of his Creek ancestors.

"The thought of being where the tribe was moved from, that's another thing I want to see," Lowe said. "I just did an interview and I broke down. It's just a feeling; you know those people were your relatives, and how hard it must've been on them. It's something you just can't explain from inside."

Lowe, a Marine veteran, has traveled all over the United States and even to other countries, but he'd never traveled to the historical Creek sites. He hails from Nuyaka, in rural Okfuskee County, deep in Creek country. He's a speaker of the language, and knows its importance to the people. But he never had an opportunity to see the historical places.

"I've always heard about it and read it in books," he said. "Horseshoe Bend, I wanted to go there where the battle was. I really want to see that."

Due to his work schedule, Lowe will be riding to Ft. Toulouse, Ala., on June 9, but then will head back to Oklahoma for a week. But he will rejoin Beaver at a stop in Arkansas June 16.

MNN/Christina Good Voice
John Beaver, left, Andrew Lowe, right, and other cyclists prepare to depart June 2, 2012 from Ocmulgee National Monument in Macon, Ga. Lowe, 68, is a Muscogee (Creek) Marine veteran.

One might think that Lowe has been an avid cyclist his entire life, or that he may own a road bicycle similar to what Beaver rides. But he doesn't. He purchased a specialized brand mountain bicycle not too long before the ride, and that's what he's been riding.

"I haven't rode a bike in years," Lowe said with a laugh. "I got a bike at home that I ride every now and then. My bike sat out in my yard for two years. The first day [June 2] we did 40 miles and it almost killed me."

Enduring the elements – 90-degree temperatures, humidity and rain – sharing the road with tractor trailers, long stretches of highway hearing nothing but the wind and being left to your thoughts would be grueling enough, but the historical aspect of the tour also gives the cyclists an emotional obstacle.

But his emotions only spur him on, Lowe said.

"I think the emotions will help me more than anything," he said. "I can't tell you how it would feel, how those people felt, but I'm on a bicycle, being able to go ten times faster than they were able to. [My emotions] will push me more than anything."

To Lowe, his age isn't a factor to him at all. He admits he hasn't always lived a healthy lifestyle, but when he decided to make a change, he did it to prolong his life and got healthy and active.

"We were looking around one day and I told my wife, 'I might get me a kayak,'" he said.

His sense of adventure, and yearning to learn more about his own tribe's history keep him going each day that the cyclists log more and more miles.

"I thought maybe doing something like this will make it widespread for other Indians about what went on."

Tears

Continued from Page 1

Principal Chief George Tiger said the event was a reunion for citizens, and the Nation is as strong as it's ever been.

"It is said that our forefathers and our foremothers, as they were preparing to make a trip to an unknown land and an unknown place, had a vision, and that vision was that someday the following generations would come back to their motherland and be a part of something, such as this event," Tiger said. "It was also said that in the future while we were removed from this original homeland, that when they come back to the original homelands, they'll be much stronger, and I believe that to be true today."

MNN/Christina Good Voice
John Beaver departed June 2, 2012 from Ocmulgee National Monument in Macon, Ga., on the Trail of Tears Bike Ride. The journey is over 1,000 miles.

Beaver is the lead rider, and has been training for several months, and Giles drives a vehicle and is the ride's "mobile command unit," and follows along the routes with the riders.

The 21-day tour is, in essence, a "living classroom" experience that is being shared in real time blogs on the tour web page, and later will be displayed in the museum.

The bicycle tour allows the group to visit significant historical sites pertaining to Creek history in Georgia and Alabama, including the Ocmulgee Mounds and fort sites where Creek battles were fought.

"It was developed to educate, communicate, reassert and reaffirm Muscogee (Creek) history in the southeast."

– John Beaver, bicyclist on Trail of Tears Bicycle Tour

Second Chief Roger Barnett said he was proud to be a part of the event.

"This has been a historical day for all of us," he said.

Barnett told of a story more than 20 years ago when he was stationed at Ft. Benning and came to visit the monument, and coming back he has a great feeling of pride of being a Muscogee (Creek) citizen.

"To know that people like Justin Giles and John Beaver are coming back and bringing our presence and it's good to be a part of this day and celebration," Barnett said. "I'm glad to see all the citizens here from back home here."

Speaker of the National Council Sam Alexander said the event was to honor Creek ancestors.

"We from Oklahoma represent our ancestors who claim this part of the United States as their homeland," he said. "We're here to honor their memory, and we're here to honor those who made the journey known as the Trail of Tears. We are their heirs and descendants."

Tribal citizens' ancestors recreated their representative form of tribal government, the tribal government is not only alive, it's prospering, he said.

The Ocmulgee to Okmulgee Muscogee (Creek) Nation Trail of Tears Bicycle Tour first began as an idea several months ago and is a collaborative effort among several entities, including tribal and non-tribal, states and agencies.

The project was spearheaded by Beaver, Director and Curator of the MCN Museum, Cultural Center and Archives, and Justin Giles, Museum Assistant Director.

Significant dates on the tour include: June 9 at Ft. Toulouse, Ala., June 11 at Horseshoe Bend, Ala., June 22 at the Ft. Gibson Historic Site in Ft. Gibson, Okla., and June 23 when the cyclists will arrive in Okmulgee at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival.

Cyclists are welcomed to join Beaver and Lowe at the Ft. Gibson stop and ride with them June 23 into Okmulgee.

To follow the tour, visit: http://www.muscogeenationmuseum.org.

Removal

Continued from Page 1

That is something Giles said has not been overlooked, "We're revisiting some sites that weren't a good part of our history. The Trail of Tears was very much a 'death march' for us. Recognizing the seriousness of some of the events and places we're going to be visiting and re-tracing, we've wanted to prepare our thoughts and our minds to be in a good place and again, have a positive aspect and a positive feeling for this."

Dozens turned out to send the team on their journey. Among them was Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger.

"Today is a very emotional, historic day. As we embark on a trip back to our original homelands in Georgia and Alabama, to retrace the steps of our forefathers and foremothers through a different transportation system, if you will, it says a lot about we, the Muscogee people. It says a lot about who we are, as far as endurance, as far as our faith, as far as who we are in terms of sustaining our tradition and culture. I'm very pleased to have just a small part of this send-off ceremony this morning. I'm very proud of the efforts of John Beaver and Justin Giles on seeing this project come to fruition," Tiger said.

MNN/Rebecca Landsberry
John Beaver speaks to the crowd gathered at the send-off event Thursday, May 31, 2012 at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation capitol complex in Okmulgee, Okla.

Several elders and elected tribal officials were in Ocmulgee, Ga., to see the project begin the trek to Okmulgee, Okla.

Muscogee (Creek) National Council Speaker Sam Alexander recalled comments made about the Cherokee Nation's re-tracing of their portion of the Trail of Tears, but said, the Muscogee journey was the small beginning of the Creek people's remembrance of that event and predicted it would grow, "There's going to be one man doing it this year. Next year there's going to be more. In a couple of years, I may join them. But, this is going to get bigger and bigger and bigger."

Beaver spoke of the common thread that today's Muscogee people share, "We're a large family. If there is one thing amongst many things that binds us together as Creek people, it is the Removal. That's how we all ended up here… We want to acknowledge that as a part of this project."

Community Calendar June 2012

Solid Rock to host Indian taco sale June 16

GLENPOOL — Solid Rock Indian Baptist Church, located at 841 E. 141st St., in Glenpool will host an Indian taco sale Saturday, June 16, 2012 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Orders are $7 for an Indian taco, drink and dessert. "To go" orders will be available.

For more information, e-mail: dan@workspaceresource.com

BAIUMC to host Indian taco sale June 16

BROKEN ARROW — Broken Arrow Indian United Methodist Church, located one mile east of Tulsa County Line on 141st St., will host an Indian taco sale Saturday, June 16, 2012 from 11:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Orders are $7 for an Indian taco.

For more information, contact Irene McHenry at 918-978-2299.

Creek Council House to host Indian Art Festival June 23

OKMULGEE — The 2012 Creek Council House Museum Indian Art Festival will be held Saturday, June 23, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., on the square in downtown Okmulgee.

Attendees can enjoy a full day of fine arts, crafts, food, live demonstrations, living history, storytelling and hands-on arts and crafts for kids.

A juried art competition will feature Native American hand-made painting/graphic, sculpture, photography, basketry, fired wares and traditional art for sale by various artists on the Council House lawn.

Bill McCulley is the 2012 Featured Artist.

For more information, call 918-756-2324.

Cvkotakse Seccvlke Bow Shoot and demonstrations set for June 21-23

OKMULGEE — The 6th annual Festival Cornstalk Shoot will be held at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Bow Range June 21-23 as part of the Muscogee Festival activities.

The bow range opens Thursday, June 21 at noon for free shooting and re-opens at 7 p.m., on Friday, June 22 for the first night shoot.

A children and juniors shoot will be held Saturday, June 23 with registration beginning at 8:30 a.m., and shoots at 9 a.m., and 3 p.m. Children's shoots are free to participants.

The main shoot will be for participants over the age of 17. The cost is $6 per shooter. First, second and third place trophies will be awarded and water will be provided.

Flint knapping, basket weaving, twining, silversmithing and shell carving demonstrations will also be on site.

Ford Fusion to be given to citizen at MCN Festival; items available for purchase

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation will give away a new 2012 Ford Fusion to a Muscogee (Creek) citizen on Saturday, June 23 after the Temptations' performance. Citizens may register from noon to 7 p.m., at the Claude Cox Omniplex Gift Shop.

To be eligible for the drawing, citizens must present their MCN citizenship card and be 18 or older and present to win. No CDIB cards will be accepted for this drawing.

T-shirts will be for sale, in sizes small through 5XL. Pink will be available in small through 2XL.

Youth sizes are available for $8 in small through large in blue and gray.

Souvenir cups will also be available for $5.

For more information, contact MCN T&R at 918-732-7992.

TCIC hosts Health Fair June 29

TULSA — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community will host a health fair Friday, June 29 from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m., to benefit the seniors' National Indian Conference on Aging trip.

For more information or to reserve a booth space, contact Don Cahwee at 918-812-4797 or via email at donc@gracehospice.com

Spirit of Oklahoma Football Camp set for July 6-7

WELEETKA — The second annual Spirit of Oklahoma Football Camp is set for July 6-7, 2012 at the Weleetka Football Field in Weleetka.

University of Oklahoma Sooner Football great Jamelle Holieway and friends will be conducting the one-day camp for youth ages 8-16.

The camp is geared to host youth within the 35-40 mile radius of Weleetka.

Last year, the camp was host to 106 youth and the numbers are expected to double for 2012.

For more information, contact Sandi Golden 405-786-2635 or 918-623-6437.

MCN General Election set for July 7, 2012

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) National Council general election is set for July 7, 2012.

In Creek District, a run-off between National Council candidates Dode Barnett and Dean Tiger.

All polling precincts will be open from 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

Mvskoke Language Immersion Camp set for July 9-13

OKMULGEE — The Mvskoke Language Program is currently planning an immersion camp for kindergarten through fifth grade students.

The camp will be July 9-13, 2012 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Human Development Building. For more information or for an application, call (918) 732-7724.

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION

FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM PRESENTS:

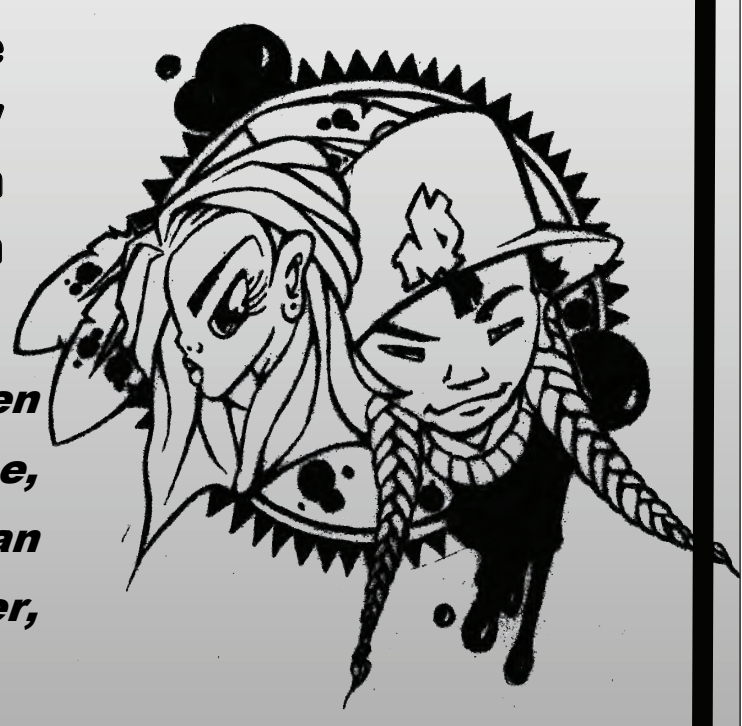
TEEN DATING VIOLENCE 101

JULY 10, 2012
Location: Wetumka High School Auditorium
410 East Benson
Wetumka, OK 74883
Time: Registration 8:00 a.m.
Workshop 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED
Courtesy of MCN Business Enterprise

JULY 11, 2012
Location: Bacone College (Wacoche Hall)
2299 Old Bacone Road
Muskogee, OK 74403
Time: Registration 8:00 a.m.
Workshop 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

This is a free training workshop that highlights the dynamics of dating violence, and specifically discusses how educators, parents, and youth providers can effectively work together to help teen victims.

Topics covered: the prevalence and dynamics of teen dating violence, warning signs of dating violence, technology and dating abuse, obstacles to ending an abusive relationship, being a teen-friendly provider, safety planning, and legal remedies.



Training Facilitators: Kelley Hampton, Technical Assistance Specialist- Break the Cycle
Morgan Lynn, Technical Assistance Attorney- Break the Cycle

Kelley and Morgan develop and facilitate trainings for service providers working with youth, focusing on creating effective programs to engage youth and address dating violence. Kelley and Morgan also work with community-based organizations, local governments, and schools to create comprehensive policies to prevent and respond to dating violence.

TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Mitzi Pope

918.732.7869

This project was supported by Grant No. 2010-WR-AX0004 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this announcement are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

MCN District Court hosts 10th annual CLE

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

TULSA — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation held its 10th annual 'Doing Business in Indian County' Continuing Legal Education (CLE) seminar May 17-18, 2012 at the River Spirit Event Center in Tulsa.

This was MCN District Court Judge Gregory Bigler's first year as a moderator for this event, which featured legal professionals as guest panelists who spoke on specific legal issues pertinent to Native American tribes.

One presentation given by Steve Hager, Director of Litigation with Oklahoma Indian Legal Services, addressed the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), a bill pertaining to the custody and adoption of Native children.

Another presentation given by attorney Judith Royster, Professor of Law at the University of Tulsa, explained the Chickasaw and Choctaw tribes' dispute with the state of Oklahoma and the specifics of water rights law.

Attorney Stacy Leeds, Dean of the University of Arkansas College of Law, gave a presentation on the Past, Present and Future of Federal Indian law and Bigler covered Federal Indian law and its relationship with Traditional Law.

Other issues covered included Tribal Casino Tort Claims covered by attorneys Jennifer McBee and Gene Bertman with McCormick and Bryan law firm and the Tribal Law and Order Act and it's effect on tribes covered by Attorney General for the Chickasaw Nation, Debra Gee.

The TLO Act, signed into law in 2010, was implemented to help deter a long history of violence and crime occurring on tribal lands. This act has several portions targeted at fulfilling this goal.

One way the TLO Act helps combat crime is its increase of tribal justice systems' authority by allowing them to give longer sentences and greater fines for prosecutions. This increase in authority was given with the condition that tribal justice systems fulfill certain due process requirements.

The TLO Act also includes a provision, which states that federal law enforcement must be accountable to tribes when prosecuting or declining to prosecute crimes that occurred on that particular tribe's land.

MNN/Rebecca Landsberry
Steve Hager, Director of Litigation with Oklahoma Indian Legal Services speaks about the Indian Child Welfare Act at the 10th annual Muscogee (Creek) Nation CLE seminar in Tulsa, Okla.

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MCN breaks ground on Recycling Center

MNN/Rebecca Landsberry
Muscogee (Creek) Nation officials from Tribal Affairs, Environmental Services, Transportation and NAHASDA joined Second Chief Roger Barnett and Principal Chief George Tiger for the ground breaking of the Recycling Center, located in the MCN Industrial Park across from the capitol complex in Okmulgee, Okla.

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — A new recycling center is on the way for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, tribal officials are hoping it may spark more energy for development for the tribal Industrial Park.

The new site is located on the eastern end of the industrial park, located on Highway 75. It will be a 3,500 square foot facility, intended to provide tribal members and employees a place to drop off their office and household recyclable materials.

According to Del Beaver, Environmental Specialist with the Office of Environmental Services, their planned center will be able to take most common recyclable items, but not everything, "We'll be able to recycle cardboard, office paper, aluminum cans, plastics and stuff like that. It started out just for the (tribal) complex, but if anybody wants to drop off recyclables, we're not going to turn them away."

Other items that they will not accept include liquid wastes such as used motor oils, automotive batteries, paints, solvents, glass or used tires. That probably will not change in future Beaver said, suggesting that people with those materials could take them to some larger retail stores that have programs to accept those kinds of things.

Beaver cautioned that residents should not be consider the center a place to get rid of household garbage, "It's definitely not a landfill, trash depot or anything like that."

The center is expected to be completed and ready for business in October 2012. Bins will be ready and a drive-thru entrance will make drop-offs more convenient, Beaver said. The facility will operate during normal business hours. Drop off bins will also be located around the tribal complex. Commercial operators currently in the area will be buying these bulk materials, so Beaver expects to have a center that should make some revenue for the tribe, when it gets up and running.

Right now, the MCN Industrial Park is an open lot with numerous utility connections sticking out of the ground. Beaver thinks the new recycling center could be useful in attracting other business tenants, "Hopefully, this building out here, will be a stepping stone to other buildings. I think it's great, it's right off (Highway) 75 and it's a good place."

That thought is echoed by Principal Chief George Tiger. At the ceremonial ground-breaking, Tiger thought that the center was an expression of the Muscogee tradition of using making good use of the earth and the tribe was following national trends towards recycling and environmental concerns.

He also thought the project could spark more commercial activity for the industrial park and economic diversity for tribe, "Just like with Riverwalk, we're looking for that 'anchor' that can draw in some other businesses. I think this is our 'anchor' for the industrial park. I want to see it full and this is a great start."

The recycling facility is part of an enhanced effort by the tribe towards environmental awareness. The familiar blue office paper collection bins provided by the Office of Environmental Services are already a part of most tribal offices. A staff member collects waste office paper and materials on a regular basis for the complex,

MCN Emergency Management Response Team completes national certification

MCN/Emergency Management
The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Emergency Response Team completed their national certification May 19, 2012 in Norman, Okla.

Media Release
MCN Emergency Management

NORMAN — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Emergency Response Team (MCN ERT) recently completed their national certification in search and rescue.

The 25-member team now has 15 nationally certified Search and Rescue Technicians (SAR). The training began in March and ended Saturday, May 19, 2012 in Norman, Okla., at Lake Thunderbird State Park. The MCN ERT completed the 47 hours required before completing the skills portion of the test.

The skills test included land navigation, tracking, area search, route search, ropes skills and pack test.

James Nichols, MCN Emergency Manager and leader of the ERT, stated "I am very proud and excited for our team. We went through a lot of blood, sweat and tears to get to this point and if feels great to have accomplished this task. Members of the SAR team encountered snakes, briars, ticks, scorpions, poison ivy and many other things while practicing and becoming certified. Our group is well trained and ready for action."

The MCN ERT now has specialized groups in search and rescue, ropes rescue and swift water rescue.

"Our team is dedicated to not only taking care of our Creek citizens but the citizens that live within our jurisdiction and in Oklahoma," Nichols stated. "Our tool box now has one more thing added to it that can help people."

The MCN ERT is part of the MCN Emergency Management Department.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation honors POWs; veterans on Memorial Day

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — As the nation paused to honor its war dead on this Memorial Day holiday, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation took time to honor those who were captured fighting those wars, with the dedication of a new statue. Located outside the Veterans Affairs Service Office building, the statue depicts a captured American soldier standing behind a barbed wire fence.

The guests-of-honor for the ceremony were U.S. Army veteran Cpl Phillip W. Coon and U.S. Air Force veteran Col. Vernon L. Wright. Coon is a World War II veteran who survived capture by the Japanese and the Bataan Death March. Wright is a U.S. fighter pilot who was shot down during the Korean War. These veterans are the remaining two Muscogee prisoners of war (POWs) still alive today.

The building's plaza was filled with American veterans and families of former POWs. Among them were Coon's wife, Helen and members of his extended family. Wright also had family in attendance. In traditional dress, the Native Praise Singers offered up Creek, Choctaw and Cherokee hymns, along with prayers in the Mvskoke language.

Principal Chief George Tiger recalled asking Coon how he was able to survive suffering in the Japanese prison camp, "The thing that he always shared with me was the ability to reach back and grasp the traditions and the culture that he was taught and that has been handed down to us throughout the generations."

Tiger added, "It was a testament to who we are as Indian people. As a race of people, we are always the first to answer the call, when it comes to defend the honor of this country. Even during a time when we weren't citizens of this country, we were the first to answer the call."

He closed, saying that the endurance of the Muscogee was tested on the Trail of Tears and gave todays' people and its soldiers the strength to survive hardships.

MNN/Sterling Cosper

Guests of honor at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation POW ststue dedication and Memorial Day honor ceremony were former Prisoners Of War, Lt. Col. Vernon Wright (left) with Cpl. Phillip Coon (right).

Wright remembered combat against several enemies and gave credit to his Creek heritage for being able to endure all that he experienced, "I think that I was carried through by the faith and the tenacity that I was given by my genes and my family."

Coon's sense of humor was sharp as he addressed the crowd under a hot Oklahoma sun, "It's great to be alive today, you can sweat all you want to." But his remarks remembered fighting in similar hot conditions during the war and having little to carry on their defense, "We just ran out of food, ammunition and men. But we didn't run out of prayer. Thank the Lord for that."

Special poster prints of Phillip Coon and his experiences were presented to the Principal Chief and Director of the Veteran Affairs Service Office Ken Davis by Coon and his family.

VASO / Smithsonian exhibit extended through July 6, 2012

Media Release
MCN Museum & Cultural Center

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Museum & Cultural Center announced extended dates for the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) Native Words, Native Warriors exhibition. The exhibition will be on display in the Veterans' Building located on the MCN Complex through July 6, 2012. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

Native Words, Native Warriors honors Native American soldiers who developed coded messages using their Native languages in WWI and WWII. While the Code Talkers' messages were never deciphered and provided an invaluable weapon on the battlefield, their contributions were not recognized until the U.S. government declassified the Navajo and Comanche code talker programs decades after WWII. The exhibition also showcases other tribes that participated in the code talker program such as the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Assiniboine, Cherokee, Choctaw, Cree, Crow, Dakota, Lakota, Kiowa, Oneida, Pawnee, and Seminole.

The Smithsonian NMAI and the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Services (SITES), with generous support of Elizabeth Hunter Solomon, produced the exhibition. Additional support has been provided by the Smithsonian's Women's Committee and the AMB Foundation.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Museum & Cultural Center and the Muscogee Veterans Affairs Services Office (VASO) have also developed a supplemental multi-banner display, which further honors our own Muscogee (Creek) warriors and their service in the U.S. military. These banners showcase Muscogee (Creek) soldiers who have served, and continue to serve, in every branch of the military throughout every American war and conflict to date.

For visitors who have already seen the exhibit, VASO has added additional banner displays and erected two new memorial statues recognizing our "Fallen Soldiers" and "Prisoners of War." VASO is a venue that compliments the Native Words, Native Warriors exhibition as it is dedicated to telling the history and stories of our Muscogee (Creek) veterans. VASO houses display cases with military memorabilia, photographs, medals and other objects donated or loaned by the friends and families of Muscogee (Creek) veterans.

The Native Words, Native Warriors exhibition is open from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Additional operational hours have been added to view the exhibition Saturday, June 23, 2012 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

All adult and School groups are invited and encouraged to come visit the FREE exhibition. For more information please call VASO: (918) 732-7744.

Native Words, Native Warriors website: http://nmai.si.edu/education/codetalkers/

Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian: http://nmai.si.edu/home/

MCN Citizenship Office adopts new policies and procedures

Media Release
MCN Citizenship Board

OKMULGEE — The Nation's Citizenship Board under the authority granted by (M(C)NCA) Title 7, § 2-109. A. has created policies and procedures.

The purpose of the policies and procedures is to provide an administrative framework for internal operational procedures, including, but not limited to, rules for the review of citizenship applications, for hearings and appeals, and such other purposes necessary for the efficient performance of the Citizenship Board's operations.

A public hearing was held March 8, 2012 to discuss the policies and procedures, which are now available for review at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Office located at the tribal complex in Okmulgee, Okla.

From Georgia Tragedy to Oklahoma Frontier
A Biography of Scots Creek Indian Chief Chilly McIntosh
by Muscogee (Creek) author Billie Jane McIntosh

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MCN School Clothing Program applications now available

Media Release
MCN Social Services

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation School Clothing Program 2012/2013, will be accepting applications for school clothing beginning Monday, May 7, 2012.

Applications will only be accepted until the deadline of Oct. 26, 2012 at 5 p.m.

This program is open to all Muscogee (Creek) citizen students no matter where they live in the United States.

The guidelines of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation School Clothing Program are as follows:

• New this year - only one application per family will be accepted!

• Child must have been previously enrolled as a Muscogee (Creek) citizen before making application. You must submit copies of each child's Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Card or a print out from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Office.

• The student must be at least three years old and enrolled in a certified Head Start (not a day care) or be four years old and enrolled in a public/private school program, pre-K through the 12th grade. All students Head Start through 12th grade must have a school official complete the School Enrollment Form that will be provided with the application. Home schooled children ages 5-18 are also eligible and must provide accredited curriculum or original receipts of textbooks purchased, and a notarized affidavit (also must be signed by the individual providing the education). The affidavit will be provided with the application.

• The primary custodial parent or legal guardian must complete the application.

Applications may be picked up at the following locations:

• The School Clothing Program office, located behind the Social Services building at 2971 N. Wood Drive, Okmulgee, OK 74447

• Any MCN Child Development Center

• Any MCN Indian Community Center

• An application is available for download at: www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov

• Call 918-549-2473 or toll free at 1-800-482-1979 for an application to be mailed or faxed directly.

All applications must be returned or mailed to: School Clothing Program, P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK. 74447.

Please do not fax or e-mail the application. We must have original documentation submitted to process applications.

For more information, please contact the School Clothing Program at 918-549-2473 or toll free at 1-800-482-1979, ext. 2473.

MCN Social Services Elder AC Program now available

Media Release
MCN Social Services

OKMULGEE — The air conditioner program provides window units for enrolled Creek citizens 60 years of age or older who have no air conditioning or existing air conditioning is inadequate.

Those under 60 years of age who suffer from or are otherwise prone to chronic illness are also eligible to apply. Both renters and homeowners may apply. Citizens are responsible for pick up and installation of air conditioners.

Guidelines:

1. Must be an enrolled Muscogee (Creek) tribal member

2. At least one member of the household must be considered as vulnerable:

A. Elder – 60 years or older

B. Medically needy as determined by a qualified health practitioner

Required Documents

• Air Conditioner application (may be completed at office or downloaded from MCN website)

• Citizenship cards for all household members (CDIB cards not accepted)

• If medically needy, a statement from a medical doctor of medical necessity

• Notarized statement from a non-family member that the applicant's home has no air conditioner or existing air conditioner is inadequate

• Additional documents may be required based on individual circumstances

For questions or additional information contact Social Services at 918-549-2445 or 1-800-482-1979.

MCN Social Services Energy Assistance Program now available

Media Release
MCN Social Services

OKMULGEE — We will be accepting applications by mail or fax for past participants only in May. We will NOT have appointments.

Applications for new applicants will begin on June 1, 2012. To help us process the application quickly, please submit a copy of the following documents required to determine eligibility:

LIHEAP Participants

• Current electric bill (must be in applicant and/or spouse's name)

• Citizenship card(s) or CDIB card(s) for all household members; if non-native, include driver's license or birth certificate

• Social Security card(s) for all household members

• Income or lack of income for all household members 18 years or older (check stub, unemployment benefits verification, and food stamp or commodities verification will be accepted)

•Written statement stating: I, _____, authorize Creek Nation Social Services to sign my application on my behalf. I have not received assistance for my cooling bill from any other agency, community center, etc., within the past 12 months. Applicant must sign, date, and leave a phone number.

Tribal Energy Participants

• Current electric bill (must be in applicant and/or spouse's name)

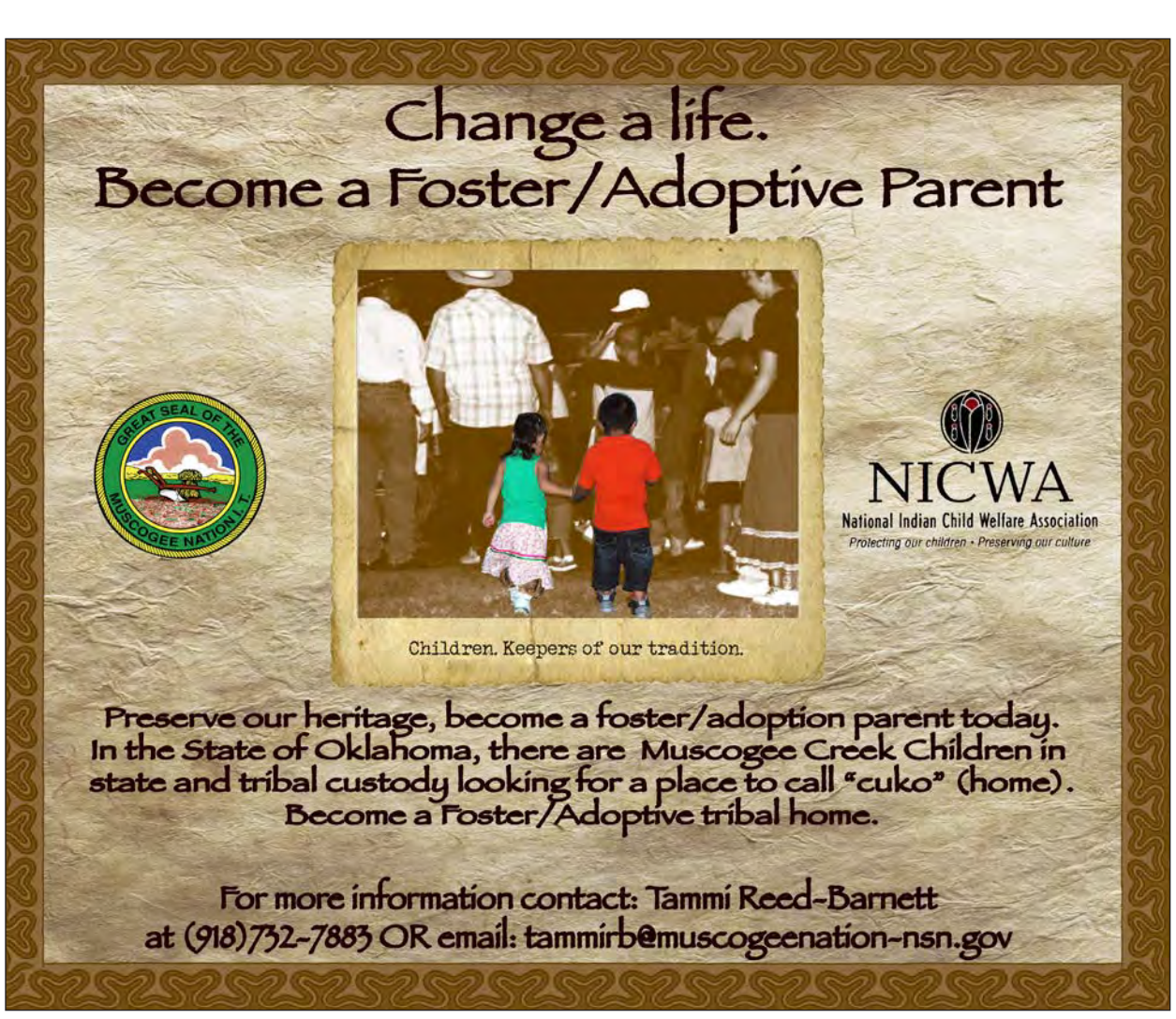
• Citizenship card(s) for all household members; if non-native, include driver's license or birth certificate

• Social Security card(s) for all household members

• Written statement stating: I, _____, authorize Creek Nation Social Services to sign my application on my behalf. Applicant must sign, date, and leave a phone number.

Once the applicant has received an approval letter, he/she will need to bring the approval letter to the office on any Friday in June or July to pick up their Educational Material bag.

For questions or additional information contact Social Services at 918-549-2445 or 1-800-482-1979.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In the State of Oklahoma, there are Muscogee Creek Children in state and tribal custody looking for a place to call "cuko" (home).
Become a Foster/Adoptive tribal home.
For more information contact: Tammi Reed-Barnett
at (918)732-7883 OR email: tammirb@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

Wetumka Head Start now accepting applications for 2012-2013

Media Release
MCN Head Start

WETUMKA — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Head Start in Wetumka is now accepting applications for the 2012-2013 school year. The head start is located at 333 S. Washita, in Wetumka and the phone number is 405-452-1180.

Hours of operation are 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Monday through Friday with the morning bus route starting at 8 a.m.

Transportation will be provided for pick-up and drop-off.

Requirements for the program include: parents income verification, (last year's income tax, pay stubs, W-2 form, TANF letter, SSI Letter, or statement from employer), child's immunization record, child's medical card, child's CDIB (if applicable) child's birth certificate, child's social security card.

The center supervisor and lead teacher have a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Development and Education. The teacher has been in the field for over 29 years and the center supervisor has been in head start for over 17 years. The teacher assistant has a Child Development Associates degree (CDA).

The Head Start Program is a comprehensive program that emphasizes child development. The program prepares children to start public school with a willingness to learn. With children starting Head Start before going into public school, statistics show a wide improvement in all areas of learning. The program also works in partnership with the parents and families so they can be self-sufficient and advocates for the children.

The head start works with the children to teach respect, communicate and get along with others, while developing friendships and trust. We help each child accept and take pride in him/her self and to develop a sense of independence. Head start centers also provide a variety of activities and opportunities to promote physical development and fitness of children indoor and outdoor in fine motor and gross motor development. Activities encouraging observation, experimentation and problem solving appropriate to the individual development levels and learning styles of each child are also offered.

For more information, contact Janice Birdcreek at 405-452-1180.

Cancer Care Community Education offered in Sapulpa through August

Media Release
MCN Division of Health

SAPULPA — The Native Navigators will host cancer continuum sessions in the northern area of MCN at the Sapulpa Creek Indian Community Center. The workshops will begin with a Family Fun Event June 9, 2012, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The educational session will be held through Aug. 2, 2012 on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. Attached is a schedule of the educational workshops to be held at the Sapulpa Creek Indian Community Center at 1020 N. Brown, in Sapulpa, Okla.

Tuesday, June 19 – Healthy Eating

Tuesday, June 26 – Exposure to Environmental Contaminants

Early Detection:

Thursday, June 28 – Get on the Path to Breast Health

Thursday, July 5 – Get on the Path to Colon Health

Tuesday, July 17 – Get on the Path to Prostate Health

Thursday, July 19 – Get on the Path to Cervix Health

Tuesday, July 24 - Get on the Path to Lung Health

Survivorship:

Thursday, July 26 – Side Effects (NACES)

Tuesday, July 31– Survivors' Support Circles

Comfort/Palliative Care:

Thursday, August 2 – Wills & Advance Directive

The navigators are Loretta Denny (918) 441-6049 and Patricia Coachman (918) 441-6048, office (918) 758-2710. Debra Isham is the project manager.

Everyone 18 years or older will receive a $10 gift card after each session for participation.

For more information, call 918-441-6048 or 918-441-6049.

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IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In re the Paternity of KALEB CURTIS HICKS:

KOLEPAH BERRYHILL,
Petitioner,

and

RYAN CURTIS HICKS,
Respondent.

Case No. CV-2011-158

Judge of the District Court

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Ryan Curtis Hicks

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued to Determine Paternity, Custody, Visitation and Support in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. CV-2011-158, styled In re the Paternity of K.C.H. born January 21, 2010, Petitioner, Kolepah Berryhill and Respondent, Ryan Cutis Hicks. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to a Paternity Determination and Order for Custody, Child Support and Visitation.

You are notified that you must answer the *Amended Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear at the hearing on the 17th day of July 2012 at 1:30 o'clock p.m. Failure to respond and/or attend will result in the allegations contained in the *Amended Petition* being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in her *Amended Petition.*

Given under my hand and seal this 4th day of May, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District

By: Jobie King
(Deputy)

(SEAL)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT
FILED
2012 MAY 15 PM 2 13
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

In re the marriage of:

SARIA LYNN GEARY,
Petitioner,

vs.

YASSER GEHA,
Respondent.

Case No. DV-2012-26

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Yasser Geha

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for divorce in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. DV-2012-26, styled In re the Marriage of Saria Lynn Geary, Petitioner and Yasser Geha, Respondent. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to a *Decree of Dissolution of Marriage* from you based on the grounds of incompatibility.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear at the hearing on the 17th day of July 2012 at 1:30 o'clock p.m. Failure to respond and/or attend will result in the allegations contained in the *Petition* being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in his *Petition.*

Given under my hand and seal this 15th day of May, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District

By: Jobie King
(Deputy)

(SEAL)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT
FILED
2012 MAY 3 PM 3 05
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF:

NELSON HARJO,
Petitioner,

vs.

SUSAN CHRISTINE HARJO,
Respondent.

Case No. DV 2011-129

Gregory Bigler
Judge of the District Court

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: **Susan Christine Harjo**

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for divorce in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. DV-2011-129, styled In re the Marriage of: Nelson Harjo, Petitioner vs. Susan Christine Harjo, Respondent. The action alleges that the Petitioner is entitled to a *Decree of Dissolution of Marriage* from you based on the grounds of incompatibility.

You are notified that you must appear at the hearing on the 19th day of June, 2012 at 1:30 p.m. Failure to attend will result in the allegations contained in the Petition being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of Petitioner as prayed for in the *Petition.*

Given under my hand and seal this 3rd day of May, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District

By: Jobie King
(Deputy)

(SEAL)
Approved:
Kurt K. Townsend, MCN#642
Shannon L. Prescott, MCN#165
Courtney L. Eagan-Smith, MCN#543
Gregory N. Hope, MCN#641
MCN Citizen Legal Services
114 N. Grand Ave, North Lobby
Okmulgee, OK 74447
(918) 756-1112
(918) 756-1113
Attorneys for Petitioner

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
STATE OF OKLAHOMA OKMULGEE COUNTY
The undersigned hereby certifies this instrument to be a full, true and correct copy of the original.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT
FILED
2012 MAY 15 PM 2 16
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATIO
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

In re the marriage of LOPEZ:

KATHERINE ELIZABETH LOPEZ,
Petitioner,

vs.

CESAR EDUARDO CHACON-LOPEZ
Respondent.

Case No. DV-2012-51

Judge of the District Court

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Cesar Eduardo Chacon-Lopez

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for divorce in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. DV-2012-51, styled In re the Marriage of Katherine Elizabeth Lopez, Petitioner and Cesar Eduardo Chacon-Lopez, Respondent. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to a *Decree of Dissolution of Marriage* from you based on the grounds of incompatibility.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear at the hearing on the 17th day of July 2012 at 1:30 o'clock p.m. Failure to respond and/or attend will result in the allegations contained in the *Petition* being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in her *Petition.*

Given under my hand and seal this 15th day of May, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District

By: Sharon Mcclendon
(Deputy)

(SEAL)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT
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2012 MAR 30 PM 1 57
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

IN THE MATTER OF:

T.T., DOB: 08/25/2006
N.T., DOB: 06-16-01
A.T., DOB: 03-28-03

Alleged Deprived Children.

Case No. JV-2012-05

NOTICE OF HEARING TO:

Wesley Taylor, Natural Father

YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that a Petition to Terminate Parental Rights has been filed against you in the above-styled and numbered cause and will be heard in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the 19th day of June 2012 at 9:30 a.m.

YOU ARE HEREBY INFORMED that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the children remain wards of the Court and custody be continued in the Children and Family Services Administration for continued foster placement of possible pre-adoptive placement. **YOU ARE FUTHER INFORMED** that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.

IF YOU FAIL TO ATTEND THIS HEARING, YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS MAY BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED AND YOU MAY BE CITED FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT AND A BENCH WARRANT MAY BE ISSUED FOR YOUR ARREST.

JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT
FILED
2012 MAY 31 PM 1 09
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

IN THE MATTER OF:

C.B., DOB: 07-08-98

Alleged Deprived Child.

Case No. JV-2012-05

JUVENILE SUMMONS

THE MUSCOGEE NATION to: Cheyenne Marks, Natural Father to C.B.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Petition has been filed in the Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation alleging that the above-named child is a deprived child and that, as the parent of said child, you have been named as the Respondent, all as more fully set out in the Petition.

YOU ARE THEREFORE ORDERED TO APPEAR at the Courtroom of the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee, Oklahoma, on the **10TH day of July, 2012 at the hour of 9:30 a.m. for an Adjudication Hearing** and to there remain subject to the call of the Court until discharged so that you may be advised of the allegations and may answer that you admit or deny the allegations of the Deprived Petition.

You may seek the advice of any attorney on any matter relating to this action at your own expense. Or, if you are qualified as indigent, an attorney can be appointed for you.

IF YOU FAIL TO ATTEND THIS HEARING, YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS MAY BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED AND YOU MAY BE CITED FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT AND A BENCH WARRANT MAY BE ISSUED FOR YOUR ARREST.

Issued this 31st day of May, 2012.

Jobie King
Deputy Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court

[Seal]

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
STATE OF OKLAHOMA OKMULGEE COUNTY
I hereby certify this instrument
to be a full, true and correct copy of the original,
on file and of record in the District

Sunday June 17th NOON - 5:00PM
Every male Diamond Club member will receive a $10 match play.

1:30PM - 3:30PM
(7) $50 free play drawings and (1) $250 cash prize drawings every ½ hour.

4:00PM
(7) $50 free play drawings, (1) $250 cash prize drawing, (2) $500 cash prize drawings.

Saturday June 23rd NOON - 9:00PM
$10 match play

1:30PM - 8:30PM
(7) $100 Hot Seat prize drawings every ½ hour.

1:30PM - 7:00PM
(1) $250 cash hot seat prize drawing every ½ hour.

7:30PM and 8:00PM
$1,000 cash hot seat prize drawings

8:30PM
$5,000 cash hot seat prize drawing

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Eli Young Band and Motown stars to headline 38th annual Festival

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — Stars from the sound of MoTown will be headlining the 38th annual Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival this June.

Gladys Knight and The Temptations will be sharing their respective lists of hits for festivalgoers June 23, 2012 at the Claude Cox Amphitheater.

Knight has enjoyed a musical career spanning more than 50 years and has eight Grammy Awards to her name. Knight, known for chart-topping hits such as "Midnight Train to Georgia" has produced 38 albums, worked with top musical artists and appeared in a number of movies.

She has also won a long list of awards for her humanitarian work. Knight recently completed appearances on the TV program. "Dancing with the Stars."

The Temptations have long been a fixture on the musical scene with chart crossover hits like "My Girl," "Papa was a Rolling Stone," and dozens of others.

The five member vocal/dance group has been performing since 1961 and delighting audiences around the world. The history of The Temptations is the history of contemporary American pop. An essential component of the original Motown machine, that amazing engine invented by Berry Gordy, The Temps began their musical life in Detroit in the early sixties. It wasn't until 1964 however, that the Smokey Robinson written-and-produced "The Way You Do the things You Do" turned the guys into stars.

The concert along with many more events are free and open to the public. The Festival is composed of sports tournaments, Native American arts festival, cultural exhibitions, a parade, rodeo, children's fun fair, arts and crafts, food and much more.

MCN T&R/Photo Submitted
The Temptations will perform at the 38th annual Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival as part of the nightly entertainment Saturday, June 23, 2012 beginning at 7 p.m.

Besides the entertainment, this year's festivalgoers will see the completion of the "Ocmulgee to Okmulgee" bike ride that commemorates the tragic journey of the Muscogee people on the Trail of Tears.

The tour is expected to arrive in Okmulgee Saturday, June 23 at the Festival.

MCN Cultural Center Director John Beaver will be serving as the lead rider for the bicycle tour.

His aim, he said, was to bring attention to the Muscogee removal and remember those who made the journey, "We want to pay homage to that. Not only do we have a history here in Oklahoma, it extends to both Georgia and Alabama. We have a long proud history there."

Anyone interested in competing in the sports tournaments or entering a float in the parade should complete an application available on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation website at www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival is a collaborative effort of MCN departments and entities with operations overseen by the MCN Tourism & Recreation Department.

Welcome from Principal Chief George Tiger

George Tiger
MCN Principal Chief

OKMULGEE — Hers'ce! Momen oketv hvyome vlakat, Mvskoke Tvlwv Vlke Emafvcketv Rakko ohrolope vtekat afacket omes. "Semvheckv Mucvset, Pumvkvsvmkv Emonkose," maketvn vhocefket ontos. Etvlwv en'tvsekia't omet, cuko pericv tontskis, epohyicakcat esepofvcket'os. MVTO!

Greetings! It is time, once again, to celebrate the resilience of our people and our living culture. We welcome our Muscogee (Creek) citizens, citizens of other tribal nations and visitors to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival!

This year's theme, "New Vision, Constant Values," is a reference to the new administration and a new vision while maintaining our cultural values. Although our administration has changed and our vision of carrying out our values may be different, those values remain constant. The Muscogee people are now, as they always have been, the lifeline of tribal government.

As we congregate at the Claude Cox Omniplex, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Capitol Complex and our surrounding communities, let us remember our Muscogee values.

A variety of festivities have been planned to accommodate all ages. Thank you to all of our visitors for attending the Festival and thank you to the employees who worked so diligently to create this exciting event.

Enjoy the Festival and welcome to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation!

Sincerely,
George Tiger
Principal Chief

Deere-Turney crowned Miss Muscogee Nation 2012-2013

MNN/Gary Fife
Pictured above are Muscogee (Creek) Nation Royalty Junior Miss Muscogee Ashlyn Rene Elizabeth Postoak and Miss Muscogee Nancy Leigh Deere-Turney, joined by current Miss Indian Oklahoma Brittany Hill.

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — The former Junior Miss Muscogee moved up a notch to be crowned Miss Muscogee in the 36th Annual Muscogee (Creek) Nation Scholarship Pageant, June 8, 2012.

Nancy Leigh Deere-Turney was selected as the new Miss Muscogee 2012 and Ashlyn Rene Elizabeth Postoak was chosen as Junior Miss Muscogee 2012. An abbreviated field of contestants competed in eight categories to win the title, plus thousands in scholarships at the tribal complex Mound Building.

Pageant Director Shirlene Ade emphasized the cultural aspect of the competition, "Even though the young ladies are beautiful, they are doing this in the cultural sense of just representing their tribe and their talents. They sing and speak in Creek…they focus on their culture."

For the new Miss Muscogee, Deere-Turney, she repeated a bit of the anxiety she experienced in last year's Junior Miss pageant. "Amazing. I was really nervous backstage. I think I was more nervous this year than I was last year," she said. The responsibility of representing her tribe is a job that Deere-Turney is ready for, "I feel like I can do a great job. I carried a load as Junior Miss last year. I think I can use it as a learning experience, and this year, I'm ready to take it all."

She plans to help Muscogee youth with learning their own language, "I had a really great time teaching first and fifth graders a Creek song and they really enjoyed it as well. So, I think I'd like to pursue that and keep teaching as much as I know.

Moments after winning the title of Junior Miss Muscogee, Postoak said there was nothing better, "I'm pleased to have a chance at being Junior Miss and just competing is an honor. Winning is just the best thing in the world right now. You can't even imagine how high up in the sky I feel."

She intends to use her reign to spread more knowledge about her tribe, "I will bring more awareness to how little people know about our culture and how it's slowly dying. We need to do something about this." Beside the business agenda of her position, she adds, she plans to have some fun, "Most definitely."

2012 Festival Schedule of Events

Friday, June 8
7:00p.m. Muscogee Nation Scholarship Pageant

Friday, June 15
5:00p.m. Slow Pitch Softball Tournament

Saturday, June 16
8:00a.m. Slow Pitch Softball Tournament
9:00 Adult 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament
11:00 Muscogee Royalty Reception
Council House Museum

Sunday, June 17
8:00a.m. Slow Pitch Softball Tournament

Thursday, June 21
Noon Corn Stalk Range Open, W. of Mound
7:30p.m. Stomp Dance—MCN Complex

Friday, June 22
8:00a.m. Golf Tournament (4-Man Scramble)
Fountainhead, HWY 150, Checotah, OK
Junior Olympics—601 E. 12th St
Senior Citizens Activities
Senior Housing, Polokse Circle
9:00 Traditional Skills—MCN Complex
10:00 Children's Fun Fair
5:00p.m. Arts & Crafts/Food Vendors
6:00 Fast Pitch Softball Tournament
6:30-9:00 All-Indian Rodeo
9:00 **ELI YOUNG BAND**

Saturday, June 23
7:00a.m. Golf Tournament (4-Man Scramble)
Fountainhead Golf Course
8:00 5k Walk/Run
Fast Pitch Softball Tournament
Horseshoe Tournament
9:00 Youth 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament
Children's Corn Stalk Shoot,
W. of Mound
Volleyball Tournament
All-Indian Rodeo Slack
9:00-Noon Safety Seat Check - N. Entrance
MCN Complex
10-3:00p.m. Council House Indian Art Festival
10:00a.m. Festival Parade, 6th Street
Children's Fun Fair
11:00 Arts & Crafts/Food Vendors
Noon-7p.m. MCN Citizen Ford Fusion Sign-up
2-6:00p.m. Creek Hymn Singing & Gospel
Singing—Mound Building
3:00 Traditional Corn Stalk Shoot
6:00-9:00 All-Indian Rodeo Finals
7:00 **THE TEMPTATIONS**
CAR GIVE-AWAY
9:00 **GLADYS KNIGHT**

Sunday, June 24
8:00a.m. Fast Pitch Softball Tournament

New Vision, Constant Values
MUSCOGEE (38) Festival 2012 NATION
Mvskokvlke Em Afvcketv

Festival basketball tournaments to be held at OHS Brock Gym

Media Release
MCN Tourism & Recreation

OKMULGEE — As part of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival, the basketball tournaments originally scheduled to be played in the Mvskoke Dome will now take place in Okmulgee High School's Brock Gym due to the closing of the facility at the MCN Claude Cox Omniplex.

The Adult 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament will begin at 8 a.m., Saturday, June 16 for ages 19 and over.

The Youth 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament will take place beginning at 8 a.m., Saturday, June 23.

For more information, please contact MCN Tourism & Recreation at 918-732-7992.

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New Vision, Constant Values

MUSCOGEE 38 Festival 2012 NATION

Mvskokvlke Em Afvcketv

June 21-24 Okmulgee

MOTOWN 6.23 SATURDAY NIGHT

FRI 6 • 8 Miss Muscogee Nation Pageant
FRI 6 • 15 Slow Pitch Softball Tournament
SAT 6 • 16 Adult 3on3 | Muscogee Royalty Reception | Slow Pitch Softball Tournament Creeks Got Talent SUN 6 • 17 Slow Pitch Softball Tournament FINALS THU 6 • 21 Stomp Dance FRI 6 • 22 Golf Tournament | Junior Olympics | Senior Activities | Fun Fair | Fast Pitch Softball Tournament | INFR Rodeo SAT 6 • 23 Youth 3on3 | 5K Run/Walk | Fast Pitch Softball Tournament | Golf Tournament | Horseshoes Corn Stalk Shoot | Volleyball | Rodeo Slack | Child Safety Seat Check | Council House Indian Art Festival | Parade | Fun Fair | Creek Hymn/Gospel Singing | INFR Rodeo Finals | SUN 6 • 24 Fast Pitch Softball Tournament FINALS

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Inside the MNN:

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PROGRAMS - MCN Reintegration seeks feedback

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Overcome - Page 6

Muscogee Nation News

Official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and a production of Mvskoke Media

July 1, 2012

Vol. 42, Issue 13

Hiyuce - Little Harvest Month

Bicyclists face tough conditions, stay positive

Ocmulgee to Okmulgee Bicycle Tour faces tough conditions on third day

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

OPELIKA, Ala. — The participants of the first Ocmulgee to Okmulgee Trail of Tears Bicycle Tour rode a 15-mile-stretch of highway from Bleeker to Opelika, Ala., June 4.

Cyclists John Beaver and Andrew (Raymond) Lowe, who rode mostly in the rain on the third day of the tour, were accompanied by three separate vehicle escorts driven by Justin Giles, Lowe's wife, Margie Burkhart, and members of Mvskoke Media.

Members of Mvskoke Media, which stayed with the tour until Horseshoe Bend June 11, spoke with riders Beaver and Lowe and their escort, Giles, after they arrived in Opelika.

"This is a great experience, a humbling experience. The emotion that comes as I imagine our ancestors walking this trail here; It is a great day to be Indian, [a] great day to be Muscogee (Creek)," Giles said.

Giles emphasized the cultural relevance of the site.

"This is right in the middle of Muscogee (Creek) country," he said.

MNN/Sterling Cosper

Justin Giles (right) provided a vehicle escort for John Beaver (left) during the Ocmulgee to Okmulgee bicycle tour which passed through rain, heat and high levels of humidity during the three-week journey.

Marine veteran Lowe, who will ride with Beaver until the tour makes its stop at Ft. Toulouse, Ala., June 9, shared his feelings about the day's ride.

"We kind of got wet," he said. "It was raining but it felt pretty good."

Lowe said one challenge he's facing is his choice of bicycle.

"The bike I have is what they call a 'work bike.' He (Beaver) has a competition bike and mine is for different terrains I guess so it's a little harder to ride," he said.

Lowe also noted the difference in level of preparation between himself and Beaver.

"He's trained a little bit, and I haven't trained. Unlike John Beaver, I'm a jogger," Lowe said.

Lowe's bicycle has a heavier frame, fewer gears, and wider tires with deeper tread, which makes it versatile but not specialized for any particular terrain.

Lowe did note a couple of positive aspects about his bicycle.

"This is preparing me for going back to jogging since I've quit that for about two years," he said. "I think I'm going to like it anyway when I get home. I'm thinking maybe I'll get one like John because his cruises pretty fast when we're riding."

See Tour - 2

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Development threatens area south of Ocmulgee

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

MACON, Ga. — Conservationists are working to preserve an area south of the Ocmulgee National Monument in Macon, Ga., containing remnants and artifacts of ancient Muskogean culture.

So far, various circumstances have kept housing developments, mining and several highway projects away from this land.

While the Ocmulgee National Monument has been federally owned and protected for years, a culturally significant area south of the monument has limited protection due to fragmented ownership.

In order to gain federal protection for this extended area, various organizations have started the process of getting it recognized as a national park.

John Wilson and Chris Watson with the Ocmulgee National Park and Preserve Initiative, one of the organizations involved in this project, believe the Muscogee (Creek) Nation can help their efforts.

See Preserve - 2

Mvskoke Radio to feature Speaker Alexander July 18

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — The tribally produced half hour radio program, "Mvskoke Radio" has grown to a full hour the third Wednesday of each month.

Broadcast at 9:30 a.m., on KOKL 1240 AM in Okmulgee, Mvskoke Radio's hour-long program is an effort from Mvskoke Media to increase service to Creek citizens.

The July 18 show will feature Muscogee (Creek) National Council Speaker Sam Alexander. Listeners can call in with questions or comments for Alexander at 918-756-3646 during the hour-long program.

For more information, contact Editorial Assistant and host of Mvskoke Media Gary Fife at 918-732-7643.

Division of Health preps for Urgent Care implementation

Media Release
MCN Division of Health

OKEMAH — The Creek Nation Community Hospital in Okemah is preparing for Urgent Care implementation to begin July 25, 2012.

The change in patient flow through the Emergency Department took place June 26, 2012.

MCN Division of Health now asks all patients to register in the main lobby at the front of the hospital.

The purpose of these changes is to increase patient and employee safety, prepare for Urgent Care implementation and improve screening process for all patients presenting to the Emergency Department.

When arriving to the Creek Nation Community Hospital, patients should expect:

- The back doors to the hospital will remain locked at all times.
- Emergency vehicles only will utilize the back doors.
- Security will be stationed where patient registration is currently located.
- Patient flow will be as follows:

1) Patient will enter the main lobby and register at Patient Registration window.

2) Patient will be triaged by a registered nurse.

3) Triage RN will call Emergency Room nurse that a patient is waiting in the lobby.

4) Patient will be seen in ER according to severity of illness.

On July 25, two treatment areas will be available for patient convenience:

- The Emergency Department is open 24 hours a day and provides care for the emergent, critical and urgent patients. We will also have an Urgent Care area that will be open from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. and will provide quick care to the less urgent and non-urgent patients.
- Once the Urgent Care is implemented the triage RN will notify either the Emergency Room nurse or Urgent Care nurse that a patient is waiting in the lobby.
- Criteria are currently being developed to determine what an emergency is and what is urgent.

For more information, contact Administrative Officer Sheryl Howell or Celesta Johnson toll free at 1-800-219-9458.

MvskokeMedia

Muscogee Nation News Staff

Manager
Christina Good Voice

Editor
Rebecca Landsberry

Editorial Assistant
Gary Fife

Reporter
Sterling Cosper

Sports Writer
Darren DeLaune

Feature Writer
Gerald Wofford

Circulation
Wilma Lewis

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Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Please contact our office for deadline of submissions to be considered for inclusion. The **Muscogee Nation News** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate The **Muscogee Nation News** in any regard.

The **Muscogee Nation News** is mailed from Stigler, Okla., to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

To submit a change of address or a letter to the editor, call (918) 732-7720 or send e-mail to: wlewis@mcn-nsn.gov

NAJA
Members of the Native American Journalists Association

Tour

Continued from Page 1

Lowe rejoined the tour during the last week as it passed through Arkansas and concluded in Okmulgee, Okla., June 23.

"I'm honored to make this bike ride," Lowe said.

Giles said there were some historical sites to see on the tour before Lowe's departure.

"There are a couple of mound and historic sites around here, so we are going to set up camp here and visit some of those places," he said.

To Beaver, these historic stops along the Ocmulgee to Okmulgee Trail of Tears Tour make it more than just a retracing tour.

"It is a good will tour," Beaver said. "That is one of the points behind this project is to put a new face, not necessarily my face, but a new face for Creek Nation and we really want to present ourselves as goodwill ambassadors for Muscogee (Creek) Nation," he said.

Letters to the Editor

Georgian cyclist shares experience with 'Ocmulgee to Okmulgee'

COVINGTON, Ga. — Being in the right place at the right time is sometimes less about luck than it is heeding a call. And, rather than fame or fortune, the result can be something far more precious.

So it was when I heard about an historic event taking place last Saturday morning. Members of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation were coming by bus from tribal lands in Oklahoma and elsewhere to convene upon the sacred grounds of the Ocmulgee National Monument in Macon. The 80-100 citizens expected would be the largest gathering of Muscogee in Georgia since their forced relocation 200 years ago. Among dignitaries attending would be the Primary Chief, Second Chief, and Speaker of the Tribal Council – like having our President, Vice President and Speaker of the House on hand together.

John Beaver, director and curator of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Museum and Cultural Center, was to depart that morning by bicycle to retrace the "Trail of Tears" traveled by his people in 1836-37 on a forced march to an imposed new home in the west. With assistant director Justin Giles driving a support vehicle, the two men are on a three-week mission to honor tribal history and reconnect newer generations with their ancestors. The actual Trail of Tears began from Fort Mitchell, Ala., as the Muscogee had ceded the last of their Georgia lands to the United States under the Treaty of Indian Springs in 1825. But, Beaver and Giles chose to start from Ocmulgee because of its sacred heritage.

The Muscogee Nation invited local cyclists to join Beaver to begin his ride. For reasons I couldn't explain, I had to go. And, thankfully, my friend Eddie was quick to join me. With age, I've learned to err on the side of "yes" when adventure calls; this was a choice well made.

We arrived Saturday to a morning as bright and clear as any June day I can recall in Georgia, under a sky so deeply blue I wanted to reach out and touch it. A bus bearing the Great Seal of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation was parked near the steps of the park visitors' center. Muscogee citizens, guests, and media assembled for an hour-long service during which US Park Service officials, Macon's Mayor, Chief George Tiger, Second Chief Roger Barnett, Speaker of the Tribal Council Samuel Alexander, Beaver, and Giles each paid tribute to the occasion.

Chief Tiger led the assembly in a stirring hymn chanted softly in Muscogee, after which he explained the song, written by his ancestors, foretold of an appointed land where someday his people would meet and have a reunion. That day had come to this place, and, there I was, moved in ways words cannot explain.

The forced removal of the Muscogee – as well as the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, and Seminole – from their southern lands is a dark moment in American history that can never be undone. As a descendent of European Americans who willfully inflicted unspeakable pain and hardship, I stood with a heavy heart witnessing Saturday's ceremony. But, there was no ill will among these good people who had travelled far in remembrance of tragic events. Instead, I felt warm embrace and reverent celebration of an enduring culture misguided abuse can never erase.

I'm puzzled by those in my country who abhor apology, as though admitting wrongs is a sign of weakness. A nation is but a collection of human beings. And, just as we are each individually imperfect, so too is the United States of America. The nation that forged the modern template for a democratic republic, fought twice to liberate the planet from tyrants, and continues to generously spread humanitarian aid is also the country that drove Native Americans from their ancestral lands and ripped Africans from their homeland and into slavery half a world away.

None of this darkens the brightest American achievements. But, I cannot ignore that these human tragedies were inflicted by this nation to whom I pledge allegiance. And, though I honor that allegiance, I have a higher calling to do right by all human beings, regardless of skin color, continent of origin, or religious faith.

Saying "I'm sorry," isn't only solace for the victims. Genuine regret is how we acknowledge the worst we are capable of when we allow self-righteousness to cloud the sober recognition of our limitations. To the Muscogee people, I am deeply sorry for the pain we caused you. And, I am eternally grateful for the healing you have brought to our shared history.

In your language, Mvto (thanks).

Maurice Carter

Preserve

Continued from Page 1

In the past, the MCN helped stop a proposed highway project that would have run through one of these areas. Once the tribe became involved, the federal government decided to protect a small region close to the main monument by placing it on the National Register of Historic Places.

"We were just thought of as radical environmentalists. When the nation got involved, it changed everything," Wilson said.

Since the original highway plan was terminated, an attempt at building an airport entrance road near the previously proposed highway was stopped due to public opposition to a proposed tax hike to fund this project. Also, a housing development project in a nearby area was terminated due to the recent economic downturn.

The Preserve Initiative is now seeking more assured and cohesive protection for this area.

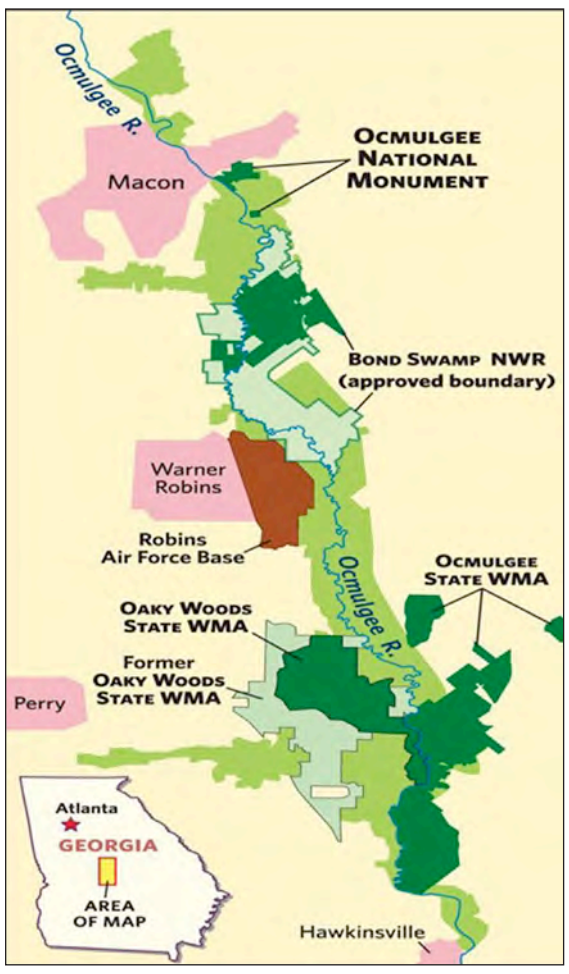
"We've been working together with multiple agencies to generate a conversation about what should take place to see that these resources are better attended to. What we're proposing is a national park and preserve concept," Watson said.

MNN/Sterling Cosper

Featured in the background is the Great Temple Mound at the Ocmulgee National Monument. Just south of this is the area conservationists are seeking to protect.

This proposed concept would help protect the portions of this area that are archeologically significant and determine which portions would be appropriate for recreation and hunting.

"The idea behind recreation is that the more people are able to access the river and these natural areas, the more they are going to care about seeing them protected," Watson said.



While awaiting national park recognition for this area, the Preserve Initiative is still attempting to get small pieces of this area under various state entities for protection.

However, according to both Wilson and Watson, long-term state protection is not ideal for a variety of reasons.

"The state has been losing big pieces of their wildlife management areas because they only own less than half while the other half is leased. Things happen, the state budget gets bad and they can't renew," Watson said.

Wilson described several circumstances that suggest that federal rather than state and local governments might be the best caretaker of culturally relevant sites.

"[At] Brown's Mount, pine beetles had gotten in. The state hired a logging company to take care of it and they [the company] set a loader and the trucks right on top of where a square earth lodge had been excavated not knowing it was an archeological site," Wilson said.

He described another situation where an individual hired to oversee Macon's Water Works Park, plowed an area known to have archeological sites on it.

"He was fired for that. If the National Park Service had owned it, it might not have been plowed," Wilson said.

Another problem with state or private management of culturally significant places is that the agencies or individuals put in charge of these properties provide inaccurate or no information about their history.

"I've traveled around at mound sites and pointed out misinformation and they reply, 'yeah well we haven't changed it,' " Wilson said.

According to Wilson, the Brown's Mount area was placed under the Museum of Arts and Sciences after his organization helped save it.

"They had tours that did not mention the historical significance at all," he said.

Wilson believes that a consultant from the MCN would help fix this problem.

"Just one representative of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation with a presence here would have a lot of influence," he said.

Wilson and Watson are still in the initial phases of attempting to coordinate with the MCN on their hopes for national park status but made some progress at the Ocmulgee to Okmulgee Bicycle Tour kick off event at the Ocmulgee National Monument.

"We came to the event at the Ocmulgee Monument trying to make new contacts. We were thrilled with who we met there," said Wilson.

According to Wilson, they were able to meet with Speaker Sam Alexander of the National Council and Rep. Eddie LaGrone who was involved in helping stop the highway project years ago.

"We really need to get a good presentation together for them," he said.

Watson expressed his excitement about their initial contact with the MCN and stressed its important role in preserving these areas.

"It was very rewarding for me, to [have] the Muscogee (Creek) Nation come out for their bike ride, and I think that if it become, an annual event it will be a wonderful thing."

"You guys were they key people that kept the highway from being built and have helped protect these areas for so long. The more you are involved, the more it bodes well for the future of the river and the cultural resources," he said.

Community Calendar July 2012

MCN closed for July 4 holiday

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Capitol Complex will be closed Wednesday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day.

VASO exhibit on display through July 6

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Museum & Cultural Center and the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) Native Words, Native Warriors will be on display in the Veterans' Building located on the MCN Complex through July 6. The exhibit is free and open to the public from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

For more information please call VASO at 918-732-7744 or visit the Native Words, Native Warriors website: http://nmai.si.edu/education/codetalkers/ Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian: http://nmai.si.edu/home/

Spirit of Oklahoma Football Camp set for July 6-7

WELEETKA — The second annual Spirit of Oklahoma Football Camp is set for July 6-7, 2012 at the Weleetka Football Field in Weleetka.

University of Oklahoma Sooner Football great Jamelle Holieway and friends will be conducting the one-day camp for youth ages 8-16.

The camp is geared to host youth within the 35-40 mile radius of Weleetka.

Last year, the camp was host to 106 youth and the numbers are expected to double for 2012.

For more information, contact Sandi Golden 405-786-2635 or 918-623-6437.

MCN General Election set for July 7

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) National Council general election is set for July 7, 2012.

In Creek District, a run-off between National Council candidates Dode Barnett and Dean Tiger.

All polling precincts will be open from 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

OIC Special meeting set for July 9

OKMULGEE —The Okmulgee Indian Community will conduct a general meeting July 9. Topics of discussion include proposed amendments.

According to OIC bylaws, "The proposed amendment shall be read aloud at the special meeting, and community members shall be given the opportunity to discuss the proposed amendment(s) at the special meeting. At the subsequent special meeting to vote on the amendment(s), only the proposed amendment(s) that has been presented to the community members in accordance with this article may be considered."

Mvskoke Language Immersion Camp set for July 9-13

OKMULGEE — The Mvskoke Language Program is currently planning an immersion camp for 31 kindergarten through fifth grade students.

The camp will be July 9-13, 2012 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Human Development Building.

The theme for the camp this year is Creek Churches. The students will be learning how churches are conducted as well as learning phrases related to church and will learn Creek hymns. Student will also take a day to visit some of the churches and feast on a traditional meal.

For more information or for an application, call (918) 732-7724.

Twin Hills Grocery Bingo set for July 14

TWIN HILLS —The Twin Hills Indian Community seniors will be having a grocery bingo Saturday, July 14 starting at 2 p.m. Bingo will be $10 for a 10 game pack with specials for $1. A concession will be available.

Twin Hills Community is located at the intersections of Hwys 16 & 52. Proceeds will benefit the senior trip to NICOA in Albuquerque, N.M.

For more information, call 918-527-5155.

OIC to hold candidate forum Aug. 13

OKMULGEE — The Okmulgee Indian Community will host a candidate forum Monday, Aug. 13 during the general meeting.

CMCA Gathering set for Aug. 4 in Anaheim, Calif.

Media Release
CMCA

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The California Muscogee (Creek) Association will be hosting their annual California gathering Saturday, Aug. 4, 2012 at the Native American United Methodist Church located at 800 South Lemon, in Anaheim, Calif., (on the corner of South Street).

Representatives from several Muscogee (Creek) Nation offices will be attending the gathering where attendees will have the opportunity to learn about programs available to out-of-state citizens. The event is free and will feature a potluck lunch.

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION

FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM PRESENTS:

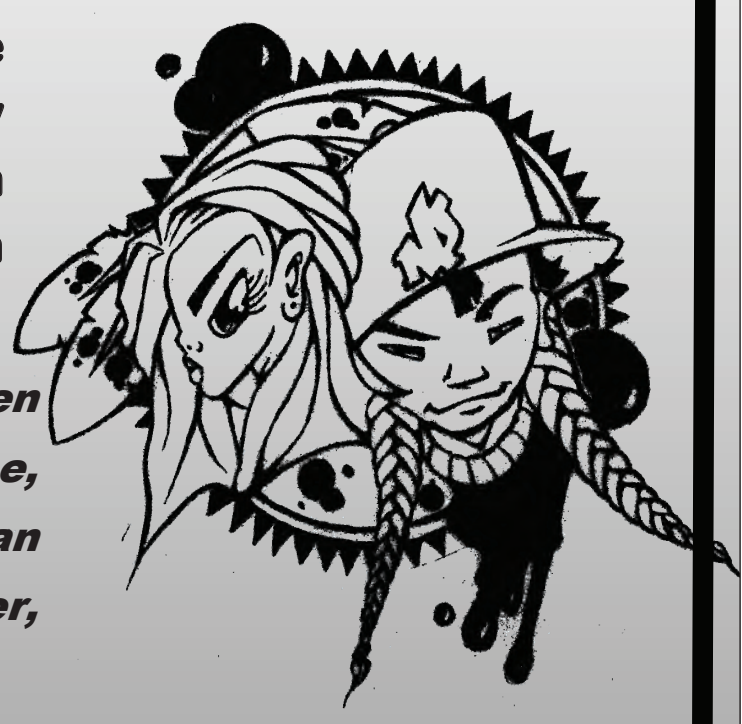
TEEN DATING VIOLENCE 101

July 10, 2012
Location: Wetumka High School Auditorium
410 East Benson
Wetumka, OK 74883
Time: Registration 8:00 a.m.
Workshop 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED
Courtesy of MCN Business Enterprise

July 11, 2012
Location: Bacone College (Wacoche Hall)
2299 Old Bacone Road
Muskogee, OK 74403
Time: Registration 8:00 a.m.
Workshop 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

This is a free training workshop that highlights the dynamics of dating violence, and specifically discusses how educators, parents, and youth providers can effectively work together to help teen victims.

Topics covered: the prevalence and dynamics of teen dating violence, warning signs of dating violence, technology and dating abuse, obstacles to ending an abusive relationship, being a teen-friendly provider, safety planning, and legal remedies.



Training Facilitators: Kelley Hampton, Technical Assistance Specialist- Break the Cycle
Morgan Lynn, Technical Assistance Attorney- Break the Cycle

Kelley and Morgan develop and facilitate trainings for service providers working with youth, focusing on creating effective programs to engage youth and address dating violence. Kelley and Morgan also work with community-based organizations, local governments, and schools to create comprehensive policies to prevent and respond to dating violence.

TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Mitzi Pope

918.732.7869

This project was supported by Grant No. 2010-WR-AX0004 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this announcement are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

Grant signs letter of intent for Southwestern College

Darren DeLaune
MNN Sports Reporter

WINFIELD, Kansas — Raquel Grant was taught to play basketball by watching her family play. She looked up to her cousins to learn about this great sport and practiced every day to be better.

Now she is at the age where there are children younger than her that are looking up to her to learn how to get better and what to do to succeed.

And with her signing to Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas, Grant is only going to gain a bigger fan base and have even more kids looking up to her as she takes her basketball game to the next level.

Grant will be a "Moundbuilder" in the fall when she reports to the NAIA Division II school. Her new team is known for their fast breaks (run and gun) style of basketball. A type of basketball that Grant feels she will fit in perfectly.

"It is not too big, and it is not to small," Grant said. "The style of basketball that Southwestern plays is a style that best fits me. There were other schools that were wanting me here in Oklahoma, but Southwestern gave me the best opportunity with what I want to do with basketball and what I want to go into for my major."

Wewoka will be missing this great talent for the next basketball season. Grant was the rock as well as the floor general for the Wewoka Tigers in all the years that she played.

"I felt it was my job to set the tone for my team," Grant said. "I kept my team motivated to play their best and to give no less than 100 percent."

Coach Wesley Wood knows what Southwestern will be getting and he is very happy for her and her next chapter in her life.

"Raquel started a new and great tradition for us here at Wewoka," Wood said. "She knew what to do to make our team better, and did what it takes to win. She was really good at getting everyone motivated. She was our leader and captain, a very humble person and deserves everything that she gets. Southwestern is getting a great basketball player, but overall, a great person when Raquel suits up with them next season."

Grant wishes nothing but the best for her former team in the years to come.

She also wants to be remembered for her hard work and striving to get to where she is at.

"Hard work is what helped me to get here," Grant said. "I believed in myself and strived to make myself better. I want to be remembered for doing that. I am going to show everyone that you can come from a little school and still go to college. Anybody can go anywhere they want to and succeed. It all depends on how much heart you have and how much you can push yourself."

"I am going to continue to push myself not only for basketball, but for my degree. This is a new experience for me and goals to be reached."

Grant will study science and business while at Southwestern.

Grant (Creek) parents are Lori Proctor and Mandrill Grant. Her clan is Wind and her tribal town is Muskogee.

Photo submitted/Lori Proctor
Raquel Grant signs her letter of intent to play basketball for Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas.

Creek boxer proves successful in the ring

MNN/Gerald Wofford
Referee Gerald Ritter raises Muscogee (Creek) boxer Darren Delaune's arm in victory. The Native American fighter made his debut in Oklahoma City, June 16. Delaune's opponent, Jimmy Lane, is left of Ritter.

Tribal employee shows he can fight with TKO

Gerald Wofford
MNN Feature Writer

OKLAHOMA CITY — Darren DeLaune, the Muscogee (Creek) boxer who has not yet determined a 'fighting nickname,' was successful in his fight debut, having disposed of opponent Jimmy Lane by a technical knockout (TKO) in the first of four rounds held at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City Saturday, June 16.

"He was a brawler," said DeLaune after the fight when asked about Lane's fighting skills. "To me, he was swinging for the fences and wanted to finish the fight early. He did get a couple of good hits on me, I have to say, which made me have to fight him more inside."

The fight began at a hectic pace as the two combatants sized the other up before planning their attack in full force . Both saw early action as the two exchanged brutal punches and took the best each had to offer.

In the first round, Lane was able to hit DeLaune with a classic right hook to the temple on the side of the forehead and the blow stopped DeLaune for a second before he shook it off.

"I do not remember the hit," DeLaune said. "I do remember being down and getting back up pretty quick."

Referee Gerald Ritter gave DeLaune the regulatory standing eight-count before the round continued as the Muscogee mauler knew this fight would allow him to hit Lane on the inside and weaken him there. As the round continued and came down to the last 30 seconds, DeLaune was able to land a powerful right hand to the side of Lane's midsection, the left side of the ribs to be exact, and some fans in the stands admit they heard a 'pop' as the climatic first round came to an end.

"I went to my corner and my trainer, B.J. Waggnor, told me, "Quit lunging when I throw my punches."

As the break came to an end, DeLaune prepared for the second round as he stood from his stool and was ready to move to the middle of the ring. DeLaune looked at Lane from across the ring noticed that he wasn't standing up to begin the round. Lane gave Ritter and DeLaune a motion that he was finished for the day. The fight was officially stopped as Ritter announced that the young Creek fighter was the victor.

"I didn't really know what to think at first," said DeLaune as he recalled the memorable night. "Before I knew it, the fight was over and Ritter was raising my arm declaring me the winner."

DeLaune exemplified good sportsmanship as he went to Lane's corner and shook his opponent's hand. DeLaune remembers Lane confessing, "You broke my ribs," and realized his motivation for not continuing.

After his first fight, DeLaune knows he still has a lot of work to do. "Yes I did get the TKO," DeLaune said, "but there were a lot of mistakes in this fight… I went in there swinging at him too and that was the wrong thing to do. I am glad that it came out in my favor but in this sport you cannot be successful by doing only that. So if I have another fight, I promise that I will listen to my trainer and do a better job at throwing my punches."

The fan support for DeLaune was tremendous as supporters from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation were in attendance. Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger even honored DeLaune with a tribal flag that was displayed proudly as DeLaune entered the ring and was even adorned on him as he left the ring.

"That was a great honor in itself," DeLaune said. "To be able to have your tribe's flag draped around your shoulders, words cannot describe that moment."

DeLaune's future in the sport is to be determined. "They [the promoters] asked me to fight again in September, but for right now I am going to take a break and then talk with my manager and trainer (Waggnor) and we'll discuss my fight future" DeLaune said.

Cancer Care Community Education offered in Sapulpa through August

Media Release
MCN Division of Health

SAPULPA — The Native Navigators will host cancer continuum sessions in the northern area of MCN at the Sapulpa Creek Indian Community Center.

The educational session will be held through Aug. 2, 2012 on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. Attached is a schedule of the educational workshops to be held at the Sapulpa Creek Indian Community Center at 1020 N. Brown, in Sapulpa, Okla.

Thursday, July 5 – Get on the Path to Colon Health

Tuesday, July 17 – Get on the Path to Prostate Health

Thursday, July 19 – Get on the Path to Cervix Health

Tuesday, July 24 - Get on the Path to Lung Health

Survivorship:

Thursday, July 26 – Side Effects (NACES)

Tuesday, July 31– Survivors' Support Circles

Comfort/Palliative Care:

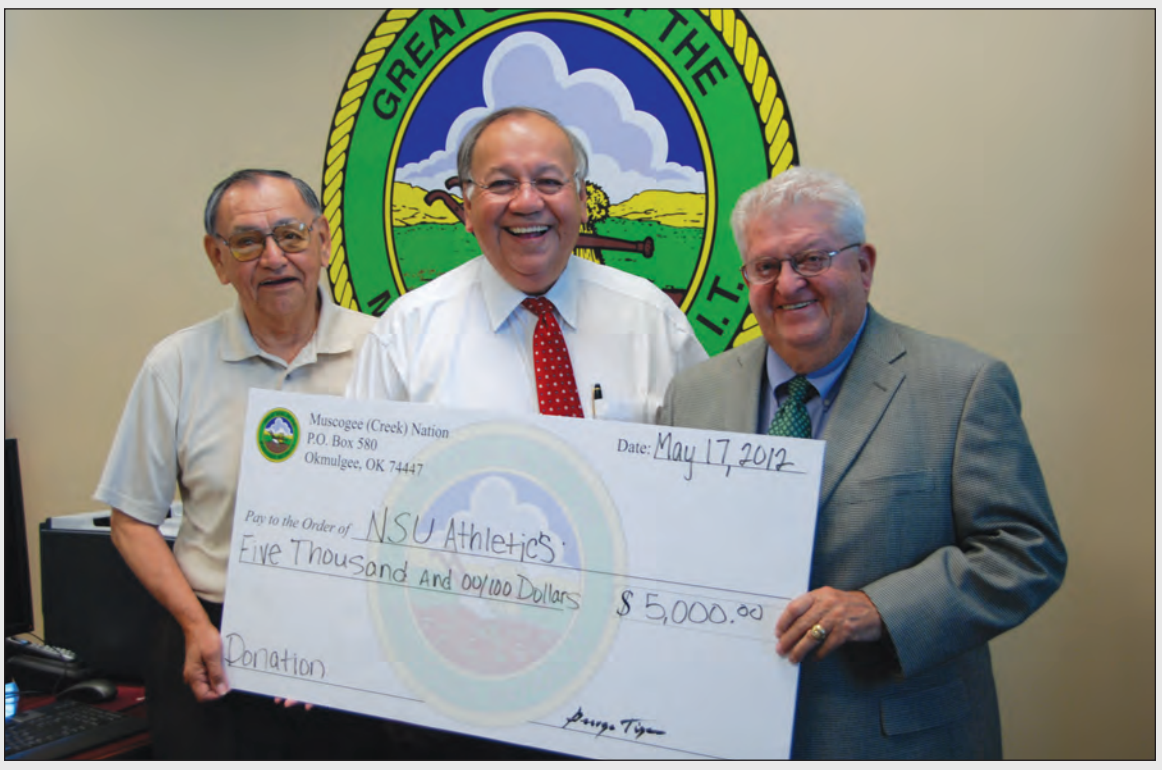
Thursday, Aug. 2 – Wills and Advance Directive

The navigators are Loretta Denny 918-441-6049 and Patricia Coachman 918-441-6048, office 918-758-2710. Debra Isham is the project manager.

Everyone 18 years or older will receive a $10 gift card after each session for participation.

For more information, call 918-441-6048 or 918-441-6049.

MCN makes $5,000 donation to NSU Athletics



MNN/*Gary Fife*
Principal Chief George Tiger presents a donation of $5,000 to the Northeastern State University Athletic Association officials, May 17. In presenting the check, Tiger said, "We feel like, with the history the tribe has with students attending Northeastern, it was really natural to be able to help the causes at Northeastern, which is certainly a school that's' been good to the Creek Nation."

OBITUARIES

RICHARD DUNN

STILLWELL — Richard Mark Dunn, passed from this life on Saturday, June 16, 2012 at the age of 55 in Stillwell, Okla.

Richard was born Oct. 26, 1956 in Okmulgee, Okla., to Wesley Dunn Sr., and Joan (Sunny) Dunn.

Richard grow up in the Nuyaka area in Okmulgee, Oklahoma. He attended and graduated in 1975 at Sequoyah High School in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. He joined the U. S. Army in 1976 and was station at Fort Sill in Lawton, Oklahoma and served two tours in Germany. He served for 16 years and received an honorable discharged in 1992.

Richard worked at Cherokee Nation and later at Schwans Global Supply in Stilwell, Oklahoma for nine years. He married his high school sweetheart Dora Drywater Smith on Oct. 27, 1975 in Muskogee, Okla.

He enjoyed fishing, hunting, spending time with family and watching Sequoyah High School play football and basketball. He was a dedicated OU fan.

He was preceded in death by his parent Wesley Dunn Sr., and Joan (Sunny) Dunn, one sister Mary Ann Dunn, two brothers Wesley Dunn Jr., and Johnny Dunn, one grandson, Dayton Dunn, and two nephews, Thomas Dunn Jr., and John Haney.

Richard is survived by his loving wife of 36 years Dora Dunn, three sons, Mark Dunn, Timothy Dunn, wife Deana and Edwin Dunn, wife Dacia, one daughter Nakayla Dunn all of Tahlequah, Okla., three brothers, Thomas Dunn, wife Mary of Okmulgee, Otis Dunn of Okmulgee, George Dunn Sr., wife Barbara of Morris, Okla., two sisters, Kathy Haney husband, Willie Sr., of Morris, Okla., and Josephine Haneberg and husband Stacy of Muskogee, Okla., mother-in-law Leola Girdner of Welling, Okla., and some very special people in his life, Eliza Sanders of Tahlequah, Okla., Elsie Pritchett and Regina Tidwell both of Welling, Okla., seven grandsons Rosco, Daylon, Timothy II, Johnny, Edwin II, Haden all of Tahlequah, Okla., Warren of Coweta, Okla., and two granddaughters Tyleasha and Jenna of Tahlequah, Okla., and a host of aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces, cousins and friends.

Visitation was held Tuesday, June 19, 2012 from noon to 8 p.m. Services were held Wednesday, June 20, 2012 at 2 p.m., with Rev. Bill Holcomb officiating.

Both the visitation and services were held at the Reed-Culver Funeral Home located at 117 West Delaware Street in Tahlequah.

VELMA HARLEY

HENRYETTA — Velma Jane Harley, a resident of Henryetta, passed away in the early morning hours of Saturday, June 9, 2012 in Henryetta at the age of 66. Velma was born May 30, 1946 in Henryetta to Benny Taylor and Ella Walker Taylor.

Velma grew up in Henryetta and attended Graham Public Schools, where she graduated from High School. Janie loved working crossword puzzles, and thoroughly enjoyed playing bingo with friends.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Leo Harley, and her mother and father.

Velva is survived by: a daughter, Gloria Jacobs and husband Steve of Bixby, a son, Leo Harley, Jr., of Henryetta, six grandchildren: Heather Jacobs, Michelle Jacobs, Jamie Jacobs, Steven Jacobs, Amanda Jacobs, and Marcus Eugene Harley, two great grandchildren: Kelie and Gooden Zakina, two brothers: Newman Taylor of Henryetta and Roley Taylor of Talihina, one sister: Hattie Birdcreek of Henryetta, and by numerous other extended family and many good friends.

Viewing and visitation were held at Shurden Funeral Home on Tuesday, June 12, 2012 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

A funeral service was held Wednesday, June 13, 2012 at 3 p.m., in the Shurden Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Mitchell Taylor officiating.

LORETTA ANN "DE" SLOAN

OKMULGEE — Loretta Ann "De" Sloan, a resident of Okmulgee, passed away Wednesday, May 16, 2012 at the age of 80.

She was born Aug. 1, 1931 to Harber and Betty (McHenry) Johnson in Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

She was a member of the First Christian Church in Okmulgee.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Harber and Betty Johnson; husband, Jack Sloan; daughter, Kim Sloan; son, David Sloan; grandson, Simon Sloan; three sisters, Carol Neido, Betty Neal and Patsy Ruth Wahnee and two brothers, Bo and Cy Johnson.

Survivors include her two daughters, DeeAnn Denney and husband Ken of Crosby, Texas and Kay Sloan of Okmulgee; three sisters, Dorothy Ticheahkie of Lawton, Charlene Nevaquaya of Lawton and Darlene Robertson of Oakland, Calif.; two brothers, Ed Johnson of Norman and Keeper Johnson and wife, Martha of Morris; eight grandchildren, Melissa Denney, Andria Flowers, David Lee Sloan, Michael Sloan, Sheldon Sloan, Ryan Johnson, Tanna Mills and Kelly Johnson; five great grandchildren, Shayleigh Sloan, Layne Sloan, Jase Flowers, Jude Ginn and Lola Ginn and numerous nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Services were held 11 a.m. Monday, May 21, 2012 at the Belvin Baptist Church in Okmulgee. Burial followed the service at the Okmulgee Cemetery under the direction of the Shurden-Jackson Funeral Home in Okmulgee.

Visitation was May 20, 2012 from 1-6 p.m., at the Shurden-Jackson Funeral Home in Okmulgee.

Coming and Going in Indian Country

Joy Harjo
MNN Contributor

OKMULGEE — It's summer and Indian stories are in the making everywhere. The days are long and languid and the nights are warm and full of singing, full of story potential. Everybody's singing stomp dance, powwow, church, and humming popular songs with ear buds in their ears. And it's not just two-legged humans but all the other humans: birds, frogs, insects and too many mosquitoes.

One of these days I'd like to start collecting some of those contemporary "old" Indian stories. Many of them have their beginnings in the summer, but are usually told on long winter nights. One category of these stories that you'll never find in the publishing world is painting stories. Like many of you, (some of you behaved, like my sister Margaret) I lived through those wild Indian parties and 49s as a high school student at the Institute of American Indian Arts and a student at the University of New Mexico. I see them now as part of a test, a kind of coming of age. Some of us made it through, barely, some of our friends…didn't… and others are still stuck there trying to catch the thrill of the first high. Some good stories came out of the journey because we needed them to make it. Laughter is the grease that slides us through difficulty, even tragedy.

Painting was a tradition at those parties. The first person to pass out was the canvas. We young women would dig through our purses and backpacks and pull out fingernail polish, tape, glue, cotton balls and any other items that might be decorative. (I hear superglue later made an appearance.) Oh, and scissors if the painting posse was being especially devious. And then the victim was…decorated on the face, arms, and sometimes…other…places. Imagine waking up and looking in the mirror. One of the best painting stories was told to me by an Umatilla man who has many, many contemporary "old" stories. He told of waking up to the sun on his face, naked on a roof without a ladder, his body painted… everywhere.

And then there's the classic kind, like the story my cousin George Coser, Jr. told us the other day as we drove downtown Tulsa on the way to the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame. "There used to be a church over there. They used to serve food for the homeless," he said as he pointed to a parking lot. Then he told of a friend of his driving over to pick him and a buddy up to take them out to lunch. They were excited and as they headed to Tulsa imagining all their favorite eating places there. His friend pulled up to the church and next thing he knew they were standing in line for their free lunch! Now that's a real Indian story!

Then there are the other kinds of stories that feed the soul of our tribal culture in a different way. Those are the stories we heard at the Thlopthloccco Tribal Town meeting out near Okemah, attended by ceremonial grounds and other cultural leaders a few weeks ago. These were the deep philosophical stories of the roots of meaning for our people, with the overhanging question of how are we going to continue as a Mvskoke people, when many of the children do not know their clans or aren't brought into the function of the clans? There is never one answer but many answers, many stories. Another important story we heard was by the Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative, about the restoration of and reculturing of plants that have traveled with us and nurtured us through our human stories.

Mvto, mvto to all the culture bearers, those who choose to remember in a time of forgetting. Mvto to the spirits of all the stories that carry us to laughter, to deeper understanding of our predicament, our place here on this Earth.

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Wetumka Head Start now accepting applications for 2012-2013

Media Release
MCN Head Start

WETUMKA — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Head Start in Wetumka is now accepting applications for the 2012-2013 school year. The head start is located at 333 S. Washita, in Wetumka and the phone number is 405-452-1180.

Hours of operation are 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Monday through Friday with the morning bus route starting at 8 a.m.

Transportation will be provided for pick-up and drop-off.

Requirements for the program include: parents income verification, (last year's income tax, pay stubs, W-2 form, TANF letter, SSI Letter, or statement from employer), child's immunization record, child's medical card, child's CDIB (if applicable) child's birth certificate, child's social security card.

The center supervisor and lead teacher have a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Development and Education. The teacher has been in the field for over 29 years and the center supervisor has been in head start for over 17 years. The teacher assistant has a Child Development Associates degree (CDA).

The Head Start Program is a comprehensive program that emphasizes child development. The program prepares children to start public school with a willingness to learn. With children starting Head Start before going into public school, statistics show a wide improvement in all areas of learning. The program also works in partnership with the parents and families so they can be self-sufficient and advocates for the children.

The head start works with the children to teach respect, communicate and get along with others, while developing friendships and trust.

Head start centers also provide a variety of activities and opportunities to promote physical development and fitness of children indoor and outdoor in fine motor and gross motor development. Activities encouraging observation, experimentation and problem solving appropriate to the individual development levels and learning styles of each child are also offered.

For more information, contact Janice Birdcreek at 405-452-1180.

MCN Reintegration Program seeks feedback on "Project to Overcome"

Media Release
MCN Reintegration Program

HENRYETTA — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program was recently awarded the opportunity to plan for the construction or renovation of a correctional or correctional alternative facility.

Our program works with incarcerated offenders and those recently released from prison to provide an easier and more productive reentry into the community. The grant we received was provided by the Bureau of Justice Assistance and is intended to assist our tribe in determining if a facility is needed.

Currently, we provide housing assistance for offenders through third party vendors and pay for their rent for four months.

However, we believe we could help the client to become more successful and in turn strengthen families and create safer communities by having our own facility that embraces our culture and provides more opportunities for growth and productivity.

We would like to get some input from the citizens in the communities to determine if safer and healthier environments can be accomplished by creating a halfway house or transitional living facility with the inclusion of counseling, vocational training, educational attainment, and positive support for offenders.

The following are the dates and times program representatives will be in local communities

For all of those who participate in a survey, a ticket will be issued for the chance to win a gift card.

• July 16 at 7 p.m., Okemah Indian Community

- Cromwell, Weleetka, Wetumka, Holdenville, Dustin and Okfuskee

• July 26 at 6 p.m., Eufaula Indian Community

- Checotah, Muscogee, Yardeka and Hanna

• Aug. 7 at 7 p.m., Oklahoma City Indian Community

• Aug. 13 at 7 p.m., Okmulgee Indian Community

- Duck Creek, Twin Hills, Wilson, Dewar and Morris

• Aug. 14 at 7:45 p.m., Glenpool Indian Community

- Koweta, Tulsa, Sapulpa, Kellyville and Bristow

For more information, contact MCN Reintegration Program Project Coordinator Amber Nelson at 918-652-2676, ext. 110.

MCN School Clothing Program applications now available

Media Release
MCN Social Services

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation School Clothing Program 2012/2013, is now accepting applications until Oct. 26, 2012 at 5 p.m.

This program is open to all Muscogee (Creek) citizen students no matter where they live in the United States.

The guidelines of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation School Clothing Program are as follows:

• Only one application per family will be accepted.

• Child must have been previously enrolled as a Muscogee (Creek) citizen before making application. Applicants must submit copies of each child's Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Card or a print out from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Office.

• The student must be at least three years old and enrolled in a certified Head Start (not a day care) or be four years old and enrolled in a public/private school program, pre-K through the 12th grade.

All students Head Start through 12th grade must have a school official complete the School Enrollment Form that will be provided with the application. Home schooled children ages 5-18 are also eligible and must provide accredited curriculum or original receipts of textbooks purchased, and a notarized affidavit (also must be signed by the individual providing the education). The affidavit will be provided with the application.

• The primary custodial parent or legal guardian must complete the application.

Applications may be picked up at the following locations:

- The School Clothing Program office, located behind the Social Services building at 2971 N. Wood Drive, Okmulgee, OK 74447

- Any MCN Child Development Center

- Any MCN Indian Community Center

- An application is available for download at: www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov

• Call 918-549-2473 or toll free at 1-800-482-1979 for an application to be mailed or faxed directly.

All applications must be returned or mailed to: School Clothing Program, P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK. 74447.

Please do not fax or e-mail the applications.

For more information, contact the School Clothing Program at 918-549-2473 or toll free at 1-800-482-1979, ext. 2473.

MCN Social Services Elder AC Program now available

Media Release
MCN Social Services

OKMULGEE — The air conditioner program provides window units for enrolled Creek citizens 60 years of age or older who have no air conditioning or existing air conditioning is inadequate.

Those under 60 years of age who suffer from or are otherwise prone to chronic illness are also eligible to apply. Both renters and homeowners may apply. Citizens are responsible for pick up and installation of air conditioners.

• Applicants must be enrolled Muscogee (Creek) tribal members

• At least one member of the household must be considered as vulnerable:

- Elder (60 years or older)

- Medically needy as determined by a qualified health practitioner

Required Documents

• Air Conditioner application (may be completed at office or downloaded from MCN website)

• Citizenship cards for all household members (CDIB cards not accepted)

• If medically needy, a statement from a medical doctor of medical necessity

• Notarized statement from a non-family member that the applicant's home has no air conditioner or existing air conditioner is inadequate

• Additional documents may be required based on individual circumstances.

For questions or additional information contact Social Services at 918-549-2445 or 1-800-482-1979.

MCN Social Services Energy Assistance Program now available

Media Release
MCN Social Services

OKMULGEE — Applications for the MCN Energy Assistance Program are now being processed. Applicants should submit a copy of the following documents required to determine eligibility:

LIHEAP Participants

• Current electric bill (must be in applicant and/or spouse's name)

• Citizenship card(s) or CDIB card(s) for all household members; if non-native, include driver's license or birth certificate

• Social Security card(s) for all household members

• Income or lack of income for all household members 18 years or older (check stub, unemployment benefits verification, and food stamp or commodities verification will be accepted)

•Written statement stating: I, __, authorize Creek Nation Social Services to sign my application on my behalf. I have not received assistance for my cooling bill from any other agency, community center, etc., within the past 12 months. Applicant must sign, date, and leave a phone number.

Tribal Energy Participants

• Current electric bill (must be in applicant and/or spouse's name)

• Citizenship card(s) for all household members; if non-native, include driver's license or birth certificate

• Social Security card(s) for all household members

• Written statement stating: I, __, authorize Creek Nation Social Services to sign my application on my behalf. Applicant must sign, date, and leave a phone number.

Once the applicant has received an approval letter, he/she will need to bring the approval letter to the office on any Friday in July to pick up their educational material bag.

For questions or additional information contact Social Services at 918-549-2445 or 1-800-482-1979.

Change a life.
Become a Foster/Adoptive Parent
GREAT SEAL OF THE MUSCOGEE NATION I.T.
Children. Keepers of our tradition.
NICWA
National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting our children • Preserving our culture
Preserve our heritage, become a foster/adoption parent today.
In the State of Oklahoma, there are Muscogee Creek Children in state and tribal custody looking for a place to call "cuko" (home).
Become a Foster/Adoptive tribal home.
For more information contact: Tammi Reed-Barnett
at (918)732-7883 OR email: tammirb@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

MCN Bar to elect officers Aug. 16

Media Release
MCN Bar Association

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Bar Association will hold a meeting and election of officers Thursday, Aug. 16, at 6 p.m., at the Mound Building Auditorium in Okmulgee.

Bar Association Members must be in good standing and physically present at the meeting to nominate or vote. Proxy voting will not be accepted. Nominations will be taken from the general membership at the beginning of the meeting for three officer positions:

President, Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer. Candidates must receive greater than 50 percent of the votes cast for their nominated position to be declared the winner. If more than two candidates are nominated from the same position, the two candidates receiving the most votes for that position will immediately participate in a subsequent run-off election that evening to determine the winner.

Officers elected Aug. 16, will serve a one-year term which begins on Aug. 18, and ends on Aug. 18, 2013. Notice of the election results from August 16, 2012, will be published in the Muscogee Nation News and posted online at www.mcnbar.org

For questions, call 918-758-1439.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT FILED
2012 MAY 4 PM 3 36
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

In re the Paternity of KALEB CURTIS HICKS:
KOLEPAH BERRYHILL, Petitioner,
and
RYAN CURTIS HICKS, Respondent.
Case No. CV-2011-158
Judge of the District Court

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Ryan Curtis Hicks

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued to Determine Paternity, Custody, Visitation and Support in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. CV-2011-158, styled In re the Paternity of K.C.H. born January 21, 2010, Petitioner, Kolepah Berryhill and Respondent, Ryan Cutis Hicks. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to a Paternity Determination and Order for Custody, Child Support and Visitation.

You are notified that you must answer the *Amended Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear at the hearing on the 17th day of July 2012 at 1:30 o'clock p.m. Failure to respond and/or attend will result in the allegations contained in the *Amended Petition* being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in her *Amended Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 4th day of May, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District
By: Jobie King

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT FILED
2012 MAY 15 PM 2 1
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

In re the marriage of:
SARIA LYNN GEARY, Petitioner,
vs.
YASSER GEHA, Respondent.
Case No. DV-2012-26

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Yasser Geha

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for divorce in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. DV-2012-26, styled In re the Marriage of Saria Lynn Geary, Petitioner and Yasser Geha, Respondent. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to a *Decree of Dissolution of Marriage* from you based on the grounds of incompatibility.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear at the hearing on the 17th day of July 2012 at 1:30 o'clock p.m. Failure to respond and/or attend will result in the allegations contained in the *Petition* being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in his *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 15th day of May, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT FILED
2012 MAY 31 PM 1 09
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

IN THE MATTER OF:
C.B., DOB: 07-08-98
Alleged Deprived Child.
Case No. JV-2012-05

JUVENILE SUMMONS

THE MUSCOGEE NATION to: Cheyenne Marks, Natural Father to C.B.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Petition has been filed in the Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation alleging that the above-named child is a deprived child and that, as the parent of said child, you have been named as the Respondent, all as more fully set out in the Petition.

YOU ARE THEREFORE ORDERED TO APPEAR at the Courtroom of the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee, Oklahoma, on the **10TH day of July, 2012 at the hour of 9:30 a.m. for an Adjudication Hearing** and to there remain subject to the call of the Court until discharged so that you may be advised of the allegations and may answer that you admit or deny the allegations of the Deprived Petition.

You may seek the advice of any attorney on any matter relating to this action at your own expense. Or, if you are qualified as indigent, an attorney can be appointed for you.

IF YOU FAIL TO ATTEND THIS HEARING, YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS MAY BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED AND YOU MAY BE CITED FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT AND A BENCH WARRANT MAY BE ISSUED FOR YOUR ARREST.

Issued this 31st day of May, 2012.

[Seal]
Deputy Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT FILED
2012 MAY 15 PM 2 1
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

In re the marriage of LOPEZ:
KATHERINE ELIZABETH LOPEZ, Petitioner,
vs.
CESAR EDUARDO CHACON-LOPEZ, Respondent.
Case No. DV-2012-51
Judge of the District Court

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Cesar Eduardo Chacon-Lopez

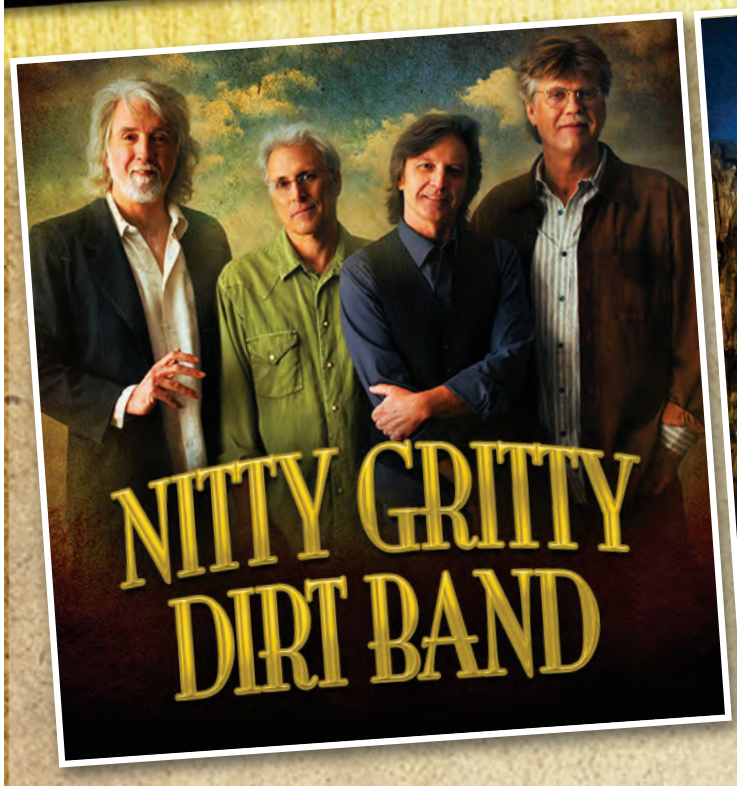
TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for divorce in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. DV-2012-51, styled In re the Marriage of Katherine Elizabeth Lopez, Petitioner and Cesar Eduardo Chacon-Lopez, Respondent. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to a *Decree of Dissolution of Marriage* from you based on the grounds of incompatibility.

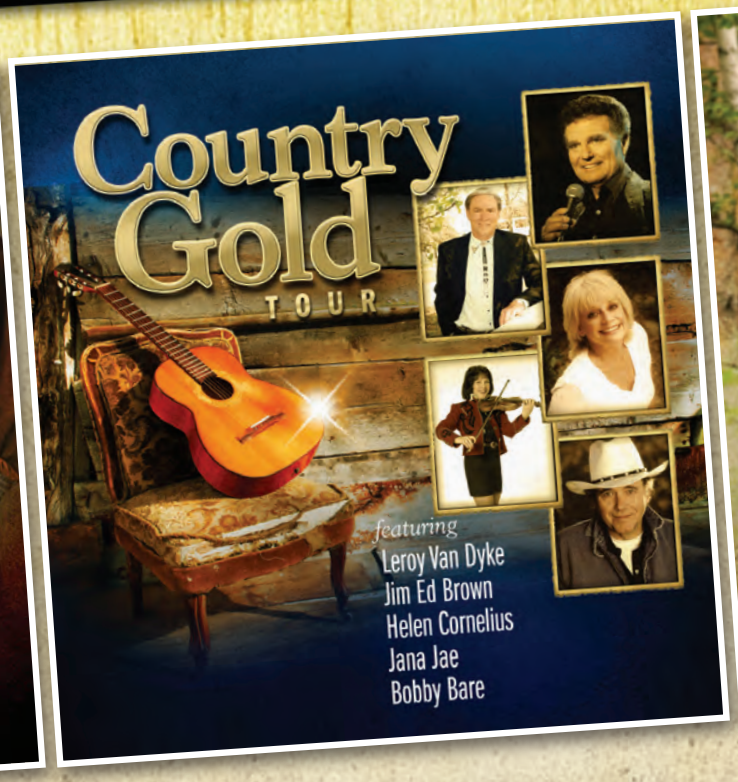
You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear at the hearing on the 17th day of July 2012 at 1:30 o'clock p.m. Failure to respond and/or attend will result in the allegations contained in the *Petition* being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in her *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 15th day of May, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmul

RIVER SPIRIT Casino
PRESENTS





JULY 1 at 7 pm
The iconic and influential Nitty Gritty Dirt Band is widely credited for launching the rock/country sound born in the 60's!
With a career that spans five decades, these music pioneers paved the way with hits like "Fishin' in the Dark", their version of "Mr. Bojangles", "American Dream" and "Long Hard Road". Tickets $30, $40 & $50.

JULY 27 at 7 pm
Don't miss this special night featuring five classic country stars!
World reknowned Leroy Van Dyke's hits include "Auctioneer" and "Walk on By". Jim Ed Brown boasts a versatile career as a recording artist and favorite Grand Old Opry star. Helen Cornelius is best known for her series of hit duets with Jim Ed Brown including, "I Don't Want to Have to Marry You" and "Morning Comes to Early". Jana Jae has earned the title "First Lady of Country Fiddle" and also starred on "Hee Haw". Grammy-winning artist, Bobby Bare, sings all your favorites including, "Detroit City", "500 Miles" and "The Game of Triangles". Tickets $30, $40 & $50

AUG 24 at 7 pm
Join country music star Tracy Lawrence for a night of toe-tappin', boot-scootin' musical entertainment.
Tracy Lawrence first burst onto the country music scene in the early 90's with four Top 10 country hits from his CD, *Sticks and Stones*, and had more than 30 singles on the Billboard Country Music Charts. Fans will be treated to songs from his new CD as well as classic favorites such as "Sticks and Stones," "Alibis," and "If the World Had a Front Porch". Tickets are $25, 35, & $50.

Rollin' ON THE RIVER

RIVER SPIRIT EVENT CENTER
81ST & RIVERSIDE | TULSA | (918) 299-8518 | RIVERSPIRITTULSA.COM
BUY TICKETS 8330

This advertisement is approved by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Public Gaming

19th ANNIVERSARY

JULY 28TH 2012

NOON - 9:00PM

All Diamond Club members will receive $19 match play
19 hot seat drawings every hour from 1:00PM - 9:00PM for $100 free plays.
July 1st-Begin earning electronic drawing tickets. Play any machine with the 19th anniversary image and double your tickets!
19 vacation trips, $1900 cash prizes, $19 match plays and so much more!

RACING CARD DERBY
FIRST IN OKLAHOMA

Now at
Muscogee Creek Nation Casino.
See website for details.

3420 W. PEAK BLVD. MUSKOGEE OK 74401
918.683.1825 creeknationcasino.net
Look for us on facebook and twitter under
'LUCK STRIKES HERE'

CREEK NATION Casino MUSCOGEE

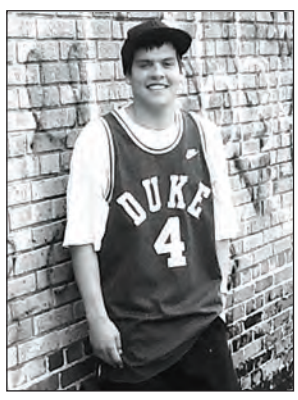
The Muscogee Nation News congratulates the graduates of the Class of 2012

Jeffrey Quintin Allen

Preston High School

Jeffrey is involved in Golf, Cross Country, Baseball, Spanish Club, Advanced Computers and member of South Heights Assembly of God Church in Sapulpa and is the son of Jeff and Tara Allen.

He is of the Racoon Clan.



Andrew Jacob Baer

University of Oklahoma
Master's Degree in Library and Information Studies

Andrew is a member of Helvpe Ceremonial Ground and the son of Jeremiah and Sherri Lynn Fields Baer.

Tina Marie Barnard

Northern Arizona University - Bachelor's Degree in Advertising, Public Relations and minor in Biology

Tina attends Grace Assembly Church in Parker, Ariz.

She is the daughter of Rick and Linda Barnard and grandaughter of Gene and Bea Grayson.

Nausoche Jane Barnett

Okemah High School

Nausoche volunteers with Children's Miracle Network and is a member of Alabama Ceremonial Ground. She is the daughter of Wilma Barnett.

Danielle Rene' Bear

Henryetta High School

Danielle was selected as an All-State participant in both fast and slow pitch for the 2011-2012 seasons as well as fast pitch softball Academic State Champs for 2010-2011 season. She was involved in National Honor Society and the Talent Search Program.

She attends New Tulsa Ceremonial Ground and is a member of Little Cussetah UMC. She is of the Nuyaka Tribal Town and the Wind Clan.

Danielle is the daughter of Daniel and Melissa Bear.

She will attend Conners State College where she signed a letter of intent to play softball.

Sophia Bencoma

Weleetka High School

Sophia played softball for three years and was a member of the Ladies Auxillary for the Weleetka Volunteer Fire Department.

She plans to attend Carl Albert State College in the fall to major in Pre-Veterinary Medicine.

Sophia is the daughter of David and Phyllis Bencoma.

William Jacob (Jake) Bender

Tecumseh High School

Jake attends Sallateeska Baptist Church. He is active in football baseball where he was named the defensive Player of the Year in 2012 earned the Senior Savage Pride Award. He was also awarded the Boyce Timmons Achievement Award from the Oklahoma Federation of Indian Women.

He is of the Bird Clan and is the son of Teresa Bender and the grandson of Bennie and Dee Bender.

He plans to attend Haskell Indian Nations University.

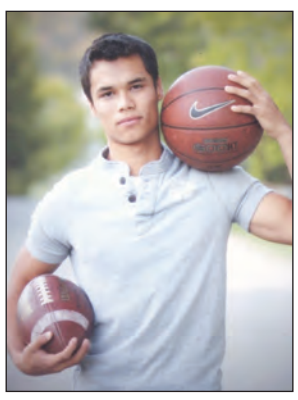
Kyle J. Bencoma

Weleetka High School

Kyle was active in football, basketball and track for four years, including all-district special teams, area and state accomplishments. He attends the First Baptist Church of Weleetka.

Kyle is the son of Phenie and the late Anthony Bencoma and the grandson of Marvin and Pam Brown, Sarah Wimey and Eugene Manley.

He plans to attend Oklahoma Baptist University in the fall and is undecided on a major.



Kyle S. Berryhill

Haskell Indian Nations University

Associate of Arts Degree in Liberal Arts

He is the son of Marian L. Berryhill and grandson of Robert J. Berryhill Sr., and Barbara (Coachman) Berryhill.

He is a member of Little Quarsarty Baptist Church near Cromwell. Kyle is also a member of Thlopthlocco Tribal Town and is of the Deer Clan.

He plans to contine his studies at Haskell to obtain a bachelor's degree in American Indian Studies.

Krystal Joy Berryhill

Anadarko High School

She attends First Caddo Baptist Church in Ft. Cobb, Okla. Krystal was a cheerleader and softball player at both Wetumka and Anadarko High School, and is a member of the Anadarko Lady Warriors 2012 Class 4A State Champion basketball team

She is the daughter of Angela Barnett and the late Robert Berryhill Jr., granddaughter of Robert Sr., and Barbara (Coachman) Berryhill of Wetumka, and the late Daniel & Jeanie Mae (Beaver) Barnett of Eufaula.

She plans to continue her education at Haskell Indian Nations University majoring in Business Administration.

Kathalene Suzanne Carden

University of Oklahoma College of Nursing

Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing

Kathalene is the daughter of Jeff and Beverly Carden and the granddaughter of Sue Morgan.

Kathalene graduated with academic distinction, was a member of the Dean's Honor Roll, President's Honor Roll, Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing and Gamma Delta Pi American Indian Sorority.

She attends New Tulsa Ceremonial Grounds and is of the Wind Clan.

Kristin Elaine Brown

Eastern Oregon University

Bachelor of Science Degree in Education

Kristin graduted with honors, Magna Cum Laude. She was a Muscogee (Creek) Nation Higher Education Scholar and a Don and Zolar Dunbar Scholar.

Jayme Nicole Chuckluck

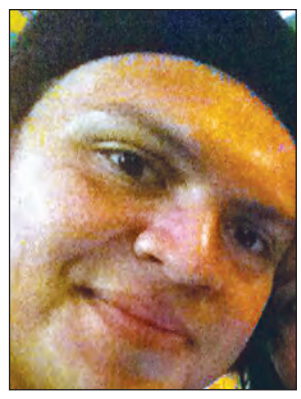
Northeastern State University in Broken Arrow

Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice

She is the daughter of Greg and Felicia Haynes Chuckluck and the granddaughter of Felix and Gloria Haynes and Bridge and the late Linda Chuckluck. She has one son, Gage.

She plans to continue her education and eventually attend law school.

Daniel W. Ellis

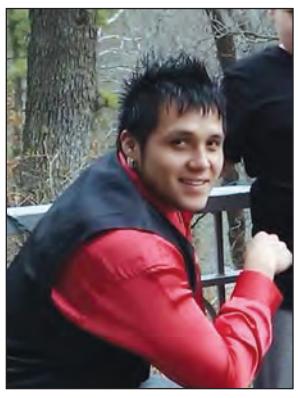


Haskell Indian Nations University

Bachelor of Arts Degree in American Indian Studies

Daniel is the son of Ramona and Gary Ellis. He is of the former Tukvpvtce Ceremonial Ground and Tukvpvtce Tribal Town. He is of the Wotko (Raccoon) Clan.

Jimsey Fish Jr.



College of the Muscogee Nation

Associate Degree in Tribal Services

He is the son of Lynnelle Roberts and Jimsey Fish and the grandson of Terry "Skip" Roberts and Mona "Koko" and Wilbert Lowe and Mitchell and Lydia "Jimmie" Fish.

Jimsey was and honor roll student. He also won first place in basketball, softball and volleyball intramurals. He attends Glorieta Baptist Church and is of the Bear Clan.

Michael Yahv Fish

Kiefer High School

He is the son of Lynnelle Roberts and Jimsey Fish and the grandson of Terry "Skip" Roberts and Mona "Koko" and Wilbert Lowe and Mitchell and Lydia "Jimmie" Fish.

Michael has lettered three years in varsity basketball, one year in Track and Field, and one year in Varsity baseball. His senior year he named Athlete of the week by the Sapulpa Daily Herald, first team Indian All State, Frisco Conference Defensive Player Award, Frisco Conference Champions, District Champions, Frisco Conference All Conference team and basketball homecoming king.

He attends Glorieta Baptist Church and is of the Bear Clan.

Brittany Elizabeth George

Holdenville High School

She is the daughter of Kristi George and the late Gregory George of Holdenville. She is the sister of Logan George, the granddaughter of Lucy George and the late William George of Holdenville, Carolyn Cason of Glenpool and John and Patrice Cason of Mannford.

Brittany was a member of the National Honor Society as Secretary/Reporter, Yearbook Editor and Key Club Treasurer. She also participated in Oklahoma Girls State 2011.

She plans to attend Oklahoma State University in the fall where she has been selected to be in the Presidential Leadership Council.

She is of the Bird Clan and her ceremonial ground is New Tulsa

Chelsea Blaine Grayson

University of the Incarnate Word

Bachelor of Arts in Business and Marketing

Chelsea attended college with a full volleyball scholarship, maintaining a 3.6 GPA. She was a starter all four years, playing right side hitter for the Cardinal's Volleyball team.

She is a descendant of Alice Marshall Grayson, born April 1879 in Turkey Hollow, Township 9, near Eufaula.

She plans to continue her studies and earn her MBA.

Hotvlkuce Valencia Harjo

Palos Verdes Peninsula High School

She is the daughter of Laura L. Harjo and Myran Yazzie, and the granddaughter of Duke and Ellen Harjo, and Tommy Yazzie and Arlinda Thomas.

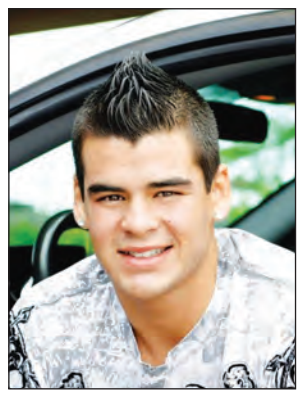
She is the daughter of Angela Barnett and the late Robert Berryhill Jr., granddaughter of Robert Sr., and Barbara (Coachman) Berryhill of Wetumka, and the late Daniel & Jeanie Mae (Beaver) Barnett of Eufaula.

She is an artist, musician, dancer and photographer, and has shown her work in art exhibits throughout the Los Angeles area. Harjo has been involved with California Institute of Arts at Self Help Art and Graphics, and L.A.'s High School for Visual and Performing Arts.

Her ceremonial grounds are Kellyville and her family's church is High Spring. Her clan is Wolf and her tribal town is Tuskegee.

She plans to attend either El Camino College or Institute of American Indian Arts to study photography.

Tyler Blake Harrison



Glenpool High School

He is the son of Jason and Robin Harrison
Grand parents are Ron and Della Cherry of Glenpool and Lena Rivas of Palm Springs, Calif.

Tyler participated in football four years, track two years, one year of basketball and wrestling while maintaining a GPA of 3.8 throughout high school.

Tyler is of the Bird Clan

Tyler plans to attend Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas where he will continue his football career.

Natalie Michelle Hayes (Caesar)

Nicolet High School

Natalie is the daughter of Willard Hayes and Wanda Pounds.

Natalie has played the violin since the 4th grade and volunteers at the Wisconsin Humane Society caring for orphaned birds in the summer.

She plans to continue her education in music and pursue a degree in Psychology.

Ross Cody Holland

Prosper High School

Ross is the son of John and Kristi Herndon Holland and the brother to Colton and Chance Holland. He is the grandson of Samarian Scott and the late Edward Herndon Soon Ja Ahn and the late Dr. Robert J. Holland.

Cody played football, baseball, and wrestled all through his school years. He was captain of the wrestling team. During his senior year, he had 30 wins with 24 of those from pins. He has played baseball his entire life, both on high school teams and on select teams, and has even helped coach younger teams. HE was active in FFA and enjoyed welding and woodworking. He won several awards in local FFA competitions.

He is of the Wotko (Raccoon) Clan.

He plans to attend college in the fall and major in education with an emphasis on history.

Monique Julissa Long

Northwest Classen High School

She is the daughter of Bobbie and DeWayne Walston and Marcos Gonzalez and the granddaughter of Brenda and Taylor Long.

Long is a member of the National Honor Society,O club, Debate Team, Vice President of the Student Council, President of the Native Knights Club, and Senior class President. Long was on the dance team “The Company” for three years, Pom Squad Captain, played one year of basketball, two years of volleyball and four years of softball for the NWC Knights.

She received Outstanding Native American Senior Award from OKCPS-Native American Student Services and a four-year scholarship to Oklahoma City University.

Monique is of the Thlopthlocco Tribal Twon and is of the Bird Clan.

She plans to attend college in the fall.

Joey Miller

Virginia Tech

Master of Arts Degree in Philosophy

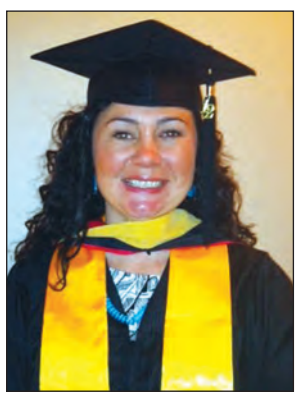
He is the son of Perry and Maggie Miller and the grandson of Wayne and Lillian Miller - Bird.

He received the Margie Grene Award for the top student in this Master’s class.

He is of the Wind Clan.

Joey will teach a course at VT on global ethics while continuing to study philosophy and preparing to apply to Ph. D. programs. He will be an instructor for the 2012-2013 academic year at VT where will be teach a “Global Ethics or Morality and Justice” course.

Shawn Marie Partridge



University of Oklahoma

Master Degree of Social Work

Shawn is the daughter of Myra Partridge and Amos Partridge and the granddaughter of the late Amos Partridge, Sr., and Nora Watson Partridge.

She is a descendent of Locvpocv Tribal Town and Turtle Clan.

Shawn was a member of the Phi Alpha Honor Society and was awarded the Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work Service Award.

She currently serves as a Project Coordinator with the Nation’s Family Violence Prevention Program.

Leah Arlene Pounds (Caesar)

Cardinal Stritch University

Bachelor’s Degree in Human Services Management

She is the daughter of Kevin Wesley and Wanda Pounds.

Leah has been accepted to the University of Milwaukee’s Graduate program and will begin her Master’s education this fall.

Janna P. Rolland

Sapulpa High School

She is the daughter of Robert and Jacqueline Rolland.

Janna attends Hickory Ground #2 Baptist Church and Kellyville Ceremonial Ground. She is active in the Native American Student Association, softball, and the Yuchi language program. She was Miss Yuchi Princess in 2011-2012.

She is of the Wolf Clan.

Janna plans to attend OSUIT for her basics in the fall.

Aaron Michael McGuire

Kellyville High School

Aaron is the son of Michael and Linda McGuire.

He is a member of South Heights Assembly of God Church in Sapulpa and participated in gold, cross country, baseball, Spanish Club and advanced computers.

Kaili Cheyenne Morgan Ortiz

Oklahoma City University
Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing and a minor in Spanish

She was a recipient of the American Indian Scholarship and was graduated Cum Laude.

Kaili is the daughter of Kevin and Tiffany Morgan and the granddaughter of Leland Morgan and Sue Morgan Compier.

She is of the Wind Clan and the New Tulsa Tribal Town.

Hally E. Pembrook

Broken Arrow High School

She is the daughter of Albert and Tammy Pembrook and the granddaughter of Art and Fern Kerr.

Hally was active in STUCO-Executive Board, COLABASH, PTSA, Applied Leadership, NHS, was in the top 3 percent of her senior class.

She participated for 12 years in the BA Varsity Competitive Cheer Squad for Broken Arrow and served as Senior Co-Captain, Oklahoma Cheerleading Coaches Association-Academic All-State, NCA-National Cheer Champions, State Cheer-Runners-up (6A Large Co-Ed).

Zachary (Porky) Roberts

Morris High School

He is the son of Danny and Jenell Roberts and has one brother, Daniel (Eskimo) Roberts.

He received the Big 8 All Conference Player, first team All County player, 2012 Most Versatile Player of the Year. Porky was also nominated and selected to play Legion Baseball under Perry Keith. He has had this honor for the past three years of his high school career.

He also attended Green Country Vo-Tech and Nuyaka Indian Baptist Church.

Porky is a member of the Wind Clan.

He received scholarship to play baseball at Connors State College and plans to continue his education and baseball career at a university where he will major in physical education and become a high school baseball coach.

Joseph Buckner Scott

Holdenville High School

He is the son of Annette Lowe and nephew of Leslie Cook and Lynn Scott.

Joseph attends Holdenville First Indian Baptist Church and his tribal town is Tukvpvtce.

Joseph is of the Wind Clan.

He plans to attend Haskell Indian Nations University in the fall.

Cheyanne Autumn Stone

Jenks High School

She is the daughter of Tim and Leslie Stone and the granddaughter of Felix and Gloria Haynes and Opal Stone.

Her awards include 2009 USSSA Tournament All Star, SAS “A” Tournament All Star, ESPN’s Rise Magazine Top 10 Players in the Nation to Watch, 2010 Defensive Player of the year with no recorded errors, 2011 Top 2 Offensive Players of the Year with 42 RBIs and a .420 batting average. She ended the season with 8 home runs and was named all conference in slow and fast pitch.

She is a descendant of Hickory Ground.

Cheyanne earned a softball scholarship to Arkansas Tech University where she will attend in the fall.

Joseph Nick Tiger

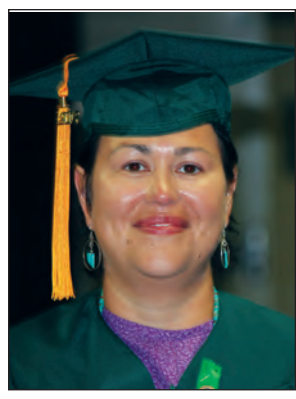
Preston High School

He is the son of Sherry Tiger, brother of Kyla Tiger and the grandson of Judy Bruner, Jim Fife and James Tiger.

His ceremonial ground is Polecat and he is of the Deer Clan.

Joseph will be attending Tulsa Tech in the fall to study network systems.

Chasilee Dawn Van Buskirk-Crawford



Wright State University

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

She is the daughter of Eleanor Irene Van Buskirk-Van Woudenberg and Russell Van Buskirk.

She was selected as an intern for cardiovascular acute care and has served as an LPN for 15 years.

Her tribal town is Kvcvte and she is of the Wind Clan.

Amanda Gayle Watkins

Charles Page High School

She is the daughter of Keith Watkins and Crystal Martinson and the granddaughter of Dale and Eva Watkins.

Amanda graduated with honors from the Tulsa Technology Center Graphic Arts Department, where she will be continuing her education this Fall.

She attends church at Hanna Assembly and is a member of the Bear Clan.

Bobbi LeAnn Welch

Inola High School

She is the daughter of Dean and Lorrie Welch and the granddaughter of the late Mary Lee Hoag (Scott) and late Robert Law and DeLoris Law.

Her ceremonial ground is Alabama and she is of the Wind Clan.

She plans to attend Haskell Indian Nations University in the fall.

Jamie Janiece Wilde-Barrientos

American Institute of Medical Technology

Diagnostic Medical Sonography

She is the daughter of Dr. James O. Wilde, Jr., and Nancy Ruede.

She is of the Bird Clan, the Broken Arrow Tribal Town and a visitor at many ceremonial grounds.

Anthony Blaine Wind Scott

Glenpool High School

He is the son of Tommy and Robyn Wind-Tiger and Calvin and Christa Scott and the grandson of Grover and Melody Wind and Georgia Jackson.

Anthony is the adored uncle of his 2-year-old niece, Lily Wind. Additionally, Anthony is an accomplished skateboarder and has won several contests and prize money.

He plans to attend Tulsa Community College this fall and eventually major in physical therapy.

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  - Georgia
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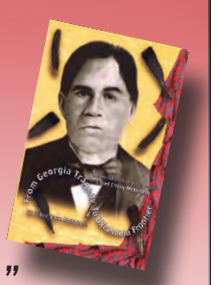

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Festival - 38th annual MCN event wraps up

Muscogee Nation News

Official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and a production of Mvskoke Media

Citizens rally for passage of Violence Against Women Act

Relay participants urge Congress to pass VAWA with tribal provisions

Rebecca Landsberry
Sterling Cosper
MNN Staff

OKMULGEE — Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizens and employees participated in a relay run to carry TR 12-090 in support of the Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) from the tribe's capitol complex to the Tulsa District office of U.S. Rep. John Sullivan July 2.

Citizens of other tribal nations joined the MCN in the relay run, which kicked off at 7 a.m., in Okmulgee and commenced at Sullivan's office located at 5727 S. Lewis Avenue, Suite 520 in Tulsa, Okla., at 2 p.m.

The event was organized in coordination with the National Task Force to End Domestic and Sexual Violence Against Women's '10 Days of Action to Reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act.' As part of this effort, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Director of Community Services Cherrah Ridge and Family Violence Prevention Program Manager Shawn Partridge organized the event for tribal members.

MCN National Council Speaker Sam Alexander ran two miles of the relay and said the event came together quickly.

MNN/Gary Fife

Shawn Partridge holds a tight grip on MCN TR 12-090 and the hand of her husband, Boo Billy, as the two finish thier leg of the 36-mile relay from Okmulgee to Tulsa as part of the '10 Days of Action to Reauthorize VAWA.' Also pictured are Alec Byrd (left) and Jason Salsman.

"What a wonderful example of what can be done in a small amount of time. It seems like, as Indian people, we're pretty good at that," Alexander said.

More than 30 participants ran the 36-mile journey, each running one-mile legs, while carrying the tribal resolution in hand.

The relay culminated in a rally held outside of Sullivan's office at 2 p.m.

Partridge said the event aimed to raise awareness about the importance of retaining the tribal provisions in the House version of the VAWA.

"We traveled 36 miles, had 40 plus runners that came here today to deliver a tribal resolution in support of the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act. We're doing this because we want our legislators to know that the safety of Native women is important and urging them to make sure that the tribal provisions are included in that law," Partridge said.

The U.S. Senate passed S. 1925, a bipartisan bill that included special protections for Native women, however, the House's version, H.R. 4970, failed to include these tribal provisions, which could solve the long-standing problem of unprosecuted sexual violence against native women by non-native offenders on tribal lands.

See Relay - 2

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Barnett elected to Creek District Seat B

Rebecca Landsberry
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE — Dode Barnett was elected to Creek District Seat B of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council during a special election July 7.

Barnett captured 61.63 percent or 1,057 votes to opponent Dean Tiger's 38.37 percent or 658 votes.

Constitutional Referendum A-67 was not passed during the special election. The referendum would have restored the original language of the 1979 Muscogee (Creek) Nation Constitution requiring voters to declare a home district to be able to vote in that particular district.

The amendment earned 64.21 percent of the total 1,548 votes (994 votes) but failed to reach the required a 2/3 majority (1,031 votes) to pass, according to MCN law.

The current amendment A-67, passed by the Constitutional Convention in 2008, sanctioned at-large voting, which allows citizens to vote for all National Council candidates in all districts, regardless of the residence of the voter.

All results are unofficial until June 13 at 5 p.m.

Fun, friends, food and kinfolk at 38th annual MCN Festival

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — Despite temperatures soaring into the hundreds, thousands of Muscogee citizens and their neighbors turned out for the 2012 Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Festival at the Claude Cox Omniplex, June 21— 24.

The annual three day event was topped off by the Saturday night arrival of the Ocmulgee to Okmulgee Bike Tour that retraced the route of Muscogee ancestors on the Trail of Tears in the early 1800s.

The festival provided all ages with lots of fun activities, informational booths, a rodeo, arts and crafts, food and entertainment.

See Festival - 10

Fountainhead Creek Golf Club receives funding for updates

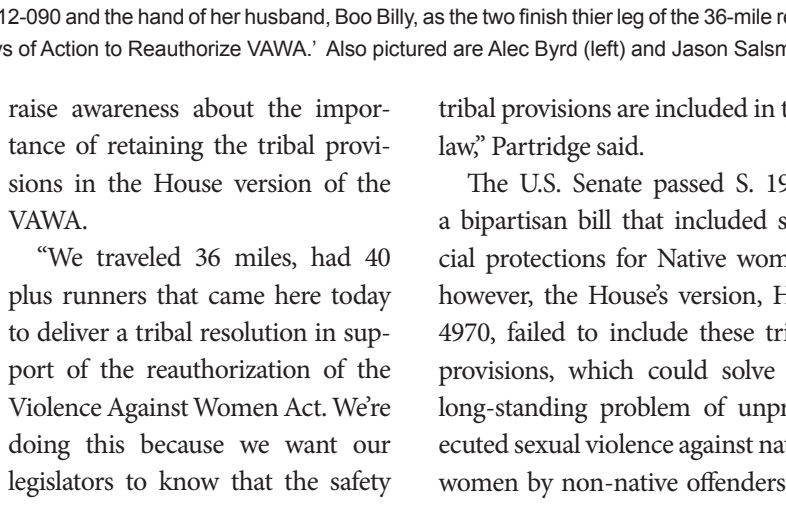
Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE — A regular session of the National Council was held June 30.

NCA 12-084 authorizing a supplemental appropriation of $277,777.75 to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tourism and Recreation Department's budget for operation of the Fountainhead Creek Golf Course spurred discussion during the meeting.

Rep. David Nichols pointed out how much money had already been spent for the purchase and operation of the golf course and expressed concern that Fountainhead would require additional funding from MCN in the future.

"My feeling is that it is going to be a great while until we build anything there. Financially we don't have a master plan and I don't think that it is a worthy cause anymore," Nichols said.



MNN/Rebecca Landsberry

Legislation providing a supplemental appropriation to Fountainhead Creek Golf Club in Eufaula was passed at the National Council regular session June 30.

Principal Chief George Tiger gave his argument for continued funding of the facility.

"As you know, with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, there has never been a master plan. We don't have to wait on any renderings and we don't have to wait on the trust status to come through, we can be doing business there now."

"We should already have something in mind and start looking at what would be the best use for that site," Tiger said.

See Council - 2

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Muscogee Nation News Staff

Manager
Christina Good Voice

Editor
Rebecca Landsberry

Editorial Assistant
Gary Fife

Reporter
Sterling Cosper

Sports Writer
Darren DeLaune

Feature Writer
Gerald Wofford

Circulation
Wilma Lewis

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To submit a change of address or a letter to the editor, call (918) 732-7720 or send e-mail to: wlewis@mcn-nsn.gov

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Council

Continued from Page 1

The resolution was sponsored by Rep. Shirlene Ade and passed 15-1, with Nichols voting against it.

Rep. Eddie LaGrone expressed his concern about NCA 12-120 authorizing a special appropriation of $48,820.43 to the Sand Creek Yuchi (Euchee) Ceremonial Ground.

LaGrone asked if there were any extraordinary circumstances that warranted a special appropriation to Sand Creek specifically.

"I would think that every other ground would be entitled to one as well," LaGrone, said.

Sponsor of the resolution, Rep. David Hill, responded by stating that the Yuchi ground is in especially bad condition.

"I really don't think they can wait two more years; it is really terrible," Hill, said.

The full version of the resolution outlined the extent of the damage on the grounds including extensive wear in the electrical system and restrooms.

"Without electricity, they will not have water, nor light on their ground," the resolution stated.

A bill sponsored by Rep. Johnnie Greene entitled NCA 12-099 passed 14-2, with Rep. Keeper Johnson and Nichols voting against it. This amendment authorized a donation of $1,000 to Rhonda Vincent who is seeking re-election for the position of Wagoner County Clerk.

The full version of the legislation stated that this donation was to help an elected official that would represent the interest of Native Americans.

Greene made a comment about this legislation before a vote was held; however her statement was inaudible.

Mvskoke Media staff were seated on the front row during this session but were unable to hear multiple comments and votes made by council representatives. This has been a recurring issue and has been commented on by attendees during several council meetings.

Alexander has encouraged representatives to utilize their lapel microphones, however, some still do not. Equipment continues to malfunction or is unable to supply adequate acoustic needs during these meetings.

Other items on the agenda included the following:

• TR 12-073 confirming the nomination of Elizabeth Yahola to serve on the MCN Citizenship Board. Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0-1 with Rep. Thomas Yahola abstaining.

• TR 12-074 confirming the nomination of Seneca Smith as the Director of the MCN Division of Health. Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0-1 with Rep. Kara Medina abstaining.

• TR 12-075 confirming the nomination of Ken Davis as Director of the MCN Veterans Affairs Services Office. Greene and Speaker Sam Alexander sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

• TR 12-076 authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a business associate agreement between the MCN and the American Dental Association (ADA). Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

• TR 12-077 authorizing the principal chief to execute cooperation and payment in lieu of a tax agreement between MCN Housing and Okmulgee County. Nichols sponsored the resolution, which was postponed 16-0. The resolution later passed 16-0 in an emergency session on July 5.

• TR 12-078 authorizing the Gaming Operations Authority Board to execute an agreement with R2W Inc. to provide for installation of LED cove lighting in the interior of the River Spirit Casino. Rep. Robert Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

• TR 12-079 authorizing the Tulsa Creek Indian Community to use the great seal of the MCN. Rep. Lena Wind, Hufft, Greene and Medina sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

• TR 12-080 authorizing the principal chief to execute various documents with Paycom Payroll LLC for payroll processing services for MCN Trade and Commerce Authority. Rep. Adam Jones sponsored the resolution, which was postponed 16-0. The resolution will be voted on again during a planning session July 24.

• TR 12-081 authorizing the Division of Health to execute a mammography accreditation survey agreement with the American College of Radiology. Johnson sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

• TR 12-082 a resolution approving the memorandum of agreement for Indian Health Service Project OK 11-D98 and authorizing the principal chief to execute an exchange letter amendment for Project OK 11-D98. Medina sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

• TR 12-083 a resolution authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement with the Indian Health Service for Project OK 10-S16. Medina sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

• TR 12-084 confirming the nomination of John T. Cripps to serve as the district trial court judge for the Family Law Division (including child support) of the MCN District Trial Court. Alexander sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-3. The resolution reached the required two-thirds majority vote required to nominate someone who is not a full MCN citizen. Beaver, Hill and Johnson voted against it.

• TR 12-085 confirming the nomination of Robert Wallace Trepp for appointment to the Supreme Court of the MCN. Reps. Alexander and LaGrone sponsored the resolution, which failed 10-6. The resolution failed to reach the required two-thirds majority vote required to nominate someone who is not a full MCN citizen. Reps. Franklin Coachman, Darrell Proctor, Pete Beaver, Nichols, Hill and Johnson voted against it.

• TR 12-086 approving liquor and beer sales at River Walk Crossing. Hufft sponsored the legislation, which passed 14-2. Medina and Johnson voted against it.

• TR 12-087 authorizing the execution of a participating agreement between the MCN and the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest for the preservation and repatriation of human remains and artifacts that may be found at the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest. LaGrone and Nichols sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

• TR 12-088 authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement with the Indian Health Service for project OK 10-S15 and an amendment to the memorandum of agreement for repairs to the Misty Valley Lagoon in McIntosh County. Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

• TR 12-089 authorizing the principal chief to execute an interagency health program agreement between the Department of Veterans Affairs and the MCN. Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

• TR 12-090 supporting the immediate passage of the Violence Against Women Act reauthorization with critical tribal amendments. Ade, Greene, Thomas and Wind sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

• TR 12-091 honoring and recognizing Muscogee (Creek) citizen Rev. Patrick Freeman for his many years of service to the ministry. Alexander sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

• TR 12-092 authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the MCN and McIntosh County for improvements to the Texanna Road Project. Alexander sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

• NCA 12-096 authorizing a supplemental appropriation of $777.97 to financially assist a Muscogee (Creek) college student. Ade sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

• NCA 12-098 amending MCN Code Annotated (MCNCA) Title 17, section 6-107 A (2)(3), entitled "Board of Directors and Officers" to adjust the rates of stipends. Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

• NCA 12-100 repealing NCA 06-271, a law of the MCN authorizing a special appropriation for Martha Berryhill, an original allottee, and her daughter. Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

• NCA 12-101 authorizing a special appropriation of $1,000 to financially assist a Muscogee (Creek) citizen. Nichols sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

• NCA 12-102 appropriating $2,931,000 to the MCN Division of Health Contract Health Services (CHS) to fund the fourth quarter of FY 2012. Greene sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

• NCA 12-103 amending MCNCA Title 7, section 2-110 to increase the stipend of the citizenship board members. Greene sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

• NCA 12-104 authorizing a special appropriation of $1,000 to financially assist a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Ade sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

• NCA 12-105 authorizing a special appropriation of $935 for the unpaid funeral services of a Muscogee (Creek) citizen. Wind, Greene and Medina sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

• NCA 12-106 authorizing a donation of $5,000 to the Okmulgee County Free Fair Board of Directors. Alexander sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-2. Johnson and Medina voted against it.

• NCA 12-107 authorizing a special appropriation of $250 for a Muscogee (Creek) citizen to attend and participate in the U.S. Transplant Games to be held in Grand Rapids, Mich. Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

• NCA 12-108 authorizing a special appropriation of $671 to assist a Muscogee (Creek) citizen due to financial hardship. Coachman and Wind sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

• NCA 12-109 authorizing a special appropriation of $2,280.90 to financially assist a Muscogee (Creek) citizen with educational expenses. Yahola sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

• NCA 12-110 authorizing a donation of $5,000 to the Oklahoma Racers Baseball Team. Rep. Pearl Thomas, Hufft, Wind and Alexander sponsored the legislation, which passed 15-1. Ade voted against it.

• NCA 12-111 authorizing a donation to the Hostile Natives Basketball Team. Johnson sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-1. Ade voted against it.

• NCA 12-112 approving the 2013 Indian Housing Plan. LaGrone and Proctor sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

• NCA 12-113 Authorizing a special appropriation of $7,500 to assist the members of the Okmulgee Indian Baptist Church in retaining legal counsel to file a quiet title suit to determine the proper ownership and control of the church. Alexander, Johnson, Nichols and Thomas sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

• NCA 12-115 approving a revision to the 2012 Indian Housing Plan approved by NCA 11-069. LaGrone sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

• NCA 12-117 authorizing a donation of $2,265 to the Oklahoma Twins Baseball Team. Johnson sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

•NCA 12-118 authorizing a donation of $2,388.71 to Deep Fork Community Action Foundation Inc. Johnson sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

Relay

Continued from Page 1

MNN/Rebecca Landsberry
Muscogee (Creek) men and women gather for prayer after the VAWA relay with Principal Chief George Tiger on the lawn of U.S. Rep. John Sullivan's office in Tulsa.

Currently, only the federal government has jurisdiction over these cases. State and local courts have no authority on tribal reservations since they are considered sovereign territory and tribes cannot hear cases involving non-natives because they are considered outside the jurisdiction of tribal courts.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger noted that the protection and safety of the tribe's women is important.

"It's our tradition and our culture that we take care of one another. Violence against women has no part of our traditions. It's very important that we make our voices heard to those members of Congress," Tiger said.

As reported by Sterling Cosper in the May 15 edition of the *Muscogee Nation News,* Department of Justice statistics indicate that 34 percent of American Indian and Alaskan Native women will be raped in their lifetimes, and 39 percent will experience domestic violence. A regional survey done by the University of Oklahoma showed that nearly three out of five (60 percent) Native American women have been assaulted by their spouses or intimate partners.

An analysis funded by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) found that, on some reservations, native women are murdered at 10 times the national average. A nationwide survey done by the NIJ found that one in three American Indian women will be raped in her lifetime.

Ridge said the passage of VAWA is critical for justice in Indian Country.

"For us to not do anything is just allowing one more victim, one more woman to be a victim of domestic violence and that's not going to be tolerated. We have to let Congress know about it each and every day," Ridge said

Ocmulgee to Okmulgee tour concludes at MCN festival

Beaver and Lowe finished their month-long ride from the Creek homelands to Okmulgee, Okla.

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE — Participants of the first Ocmulgee to Okmulgee Bicycle Tour finished their ride June 23 at the Claude A. Omniplex in Okmulgee during the 38th annual Muscogee (Creek) Festival.

The tour started with an opening ceremony at Ocmulgee National Park in Macon, Ga., and retraced the Muscogee (Creek) Trail of Tears to current Creek territory in Okmulgee, Okla.

Cyclists John Beaver, Muscogee (Creek) veteran Andrew (Raymond) Lowe and vehicle escort Justin Giles were welcomed in Oklahoma June 22, by a small ceremony at Fort Gibson where tribes were processed by the U.S. government at the end of the trail during the 1830s.

Several Yuchi (Euchee) joined the tour before it arrived in Fort Gibson to its conclusion the following day.

On June 23, MCN National Council Rep. David Hill and others joined the tour at the College of the Muscogee Nation. The riders made their way from the college to the omniplex where a closing ceremony for the tour was held on stage as part of the festival.

MNN/Gary Fife
Riders John Beaver and Andrew Lowe along with escort Justin Giles finished their ride from Ocmulgee, Ga., to the Claude A. Omniplex in Okmulgee, Okla., during the 38th annual Muscogee (Creek) Festival June 23.

Giles gave an account of the rest of their journey after they left Horseshoe Bend National park June 11.

"We continued north up toward the Gadsden, Ala., area. That area up towards Talladega, Ala., had one of the original Creek town sites. The environment is just beautiful up there in north Ala., a lot more hills, lakes and streams," Giles said.

From Alabama, the tour continued along the actual Trail of Tears removal route. Along the way, Giles and Beaver received support from the people that lived along the trail.

"Those people clearly had a good appreciation that we were coming through there and that we still exist today in Oklahoma," Giles said.

Giles and Beaver were able to make several contacts while visiting historically significant sites during the tour's route through old Creek territory in Georgia, Alabama and further along the removal trail.

These contacts included local historians, members of the park service as well as anthropologists and archeologists.

"Coming from all the people we collaborated with, they all have a sincere interest in us and what were doing," Giles said.

Both Beaver and Giles expressed an interest in utilizing these contacts in the future.

"The main site of the Creek Nation here [in Oklahoma] still has an interest in what happens down there. We will definitely have more of a presence. We have a few bicentennial events coming up including the bicentennial of Horseshoe Bend and Fort Mims," Giles said.

Fort Mims is a historical site in Alabama where the Red Sticks retaliated against U.S. soldiers for their attack against Creek Indians at Burnt Corn Creek. While visiting this site June 5, members of the tour discovered that much of the information on display at this location favored the U.S. Army's perspective of the battle.

Much of the original historical information at Fort Mims was originally placed there by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and the site is now maintained by the Fort Mims Restoration Association (FMRA).

In the days following the visit to Fort Mims, participants of the Ocmulgee tour encountered a more balanced perspective from people like Professor of Anthropology Emeritus of Auburn University Montgomery Craig Sheldon Ph.D. who gave a tour of Old Upper Creek Territory near Tallassee, Ala. Also joining Sheldon on the tour was State Archaeologist Stayce Hawthorn of the Alabama Historical Commission.

Hawthorn, and several members of the Historical Commission were present the following day when Beaver and Giles raised the Muscogee (Creek) flag over the former site of the Tukabatchee Tribal Town located on the current property of Elmore County Commissioner Trey Taylor.

MNN/Sterling Cosper
John Beaver begins the final leg of the Ocmulgee to Okmulgee Bike Tour from the College of the Muscogee Nation June 23.

Taylor extended the invitation to Beaver and Giles to fly the Muscogee (Creek) flag on his property and welcomed other members of the nation as well. MCN National Council Rep. David Hill and family were present during this ceremony. Reps. Hill, Nichols and Pete Beaver also joined the tour for other historical stops.

Overall, the participants of the Ocmulgee tour received a warm welcome from people on each stop they made. This included Claudia Campbell with the Fort Mims Restoration Association.

While many of the signs at Fort Mims featured a biased perspective, Campbell gave a more balanced account of the site's history. Much of the information currently on display at that location was placed there before she began curating the site.

However, Beaver and Giles expressed an interest in utilizing the other contacts they made in Alabama to get a more accurate account and native perspective of the history at Fort Mims.

"We actually want to follow up by using the contacts we made to change how the tribe is portrayed, like some of those sites referring to the natives as hostiles, for example. They call Wounded Knee or Burnt Corn Creek, battles, while they call the incident at Fort Mims a massacre, even though the U.S. forces attacked native settlements the same way," Beaver said.

The Fort Mims Restoration Association oversees the everyday operation of this historical facility, however, Hawthorn and the Alabama Historical Commission has final say in how all historical sites in the state are handled.

"The Historical Commission is able to update and make changes to historical markers and how information is presented there," Beaver said.

Beaver and Giles are still working on their plans to follow up with the contacts they've made in Alabama.

"Our ride down there really opened a lot of doors for collaborations and partnerships with people centrally involved and located around Creek history," Giles said.

Beaver and Giles both expressed the desire to make this an annual event. Giles said that next year they might try doing the tour closer to the fall.

"June is really a hot time to do this ride. I'm thinking that there are plenty of other times of year when we could do the ride. My first thought is that the removal of the South Eastern Indians was not a month long venture by U.S. government, it happened over multiple years during every season," Giles said.

Beaver and Giles have been approached by several people about joining them on the tour next year.

"We want to make sure we get more participation from the community. Maybe getting a whole program going that promotes health and education in culture," Giles said.

Beaver stated that they had learned a lot about what part of the route worked this time around and what he would change next time. This included several spots that wouldn't be ideal for a large group of riders. He also expressed concern about the experience level of potential volunteers wishing to participate in future tours.

"There were scenarios that I would be hesitant to take inexperienced riders through," Beaver said.

Still Beaver expressed the same interest in taking along more people next year.

"In the future whether it's getting involved in the bicycle project or citizens now knowing where to go in Georgia and Alabama, they could now have a similar experience. It is where we are from and that is a very important part of our history," Beaver said.

Lowe who left the tour shortly before it left Alabama and rejoined for the last leg as it passed through Arkansas, also expressed interest in participating next year.

"The last day I talked to Andrew was in Okmulgee at the festival. He pushed through cramps and dehydration at the end but when we were done giving our presentation he was more interested in dancing than resting. When he was riding with us through the whole month there he kept stating that he wanted to do this again, 'As long as my body holds up,'" Giles said.

Beaver didn't let the month-long ride slow him down. He plans to maintain the level of fitness he obtained from his month-long ride.

"I was back out on the bike the next Monday after we got back," Beaver said.

Beaver expressed his feelings as he rode into the omniplex for the final ceremony of the tour.

"Our ancestors made this journey, and it became more real as we approached Fort Smith, Fort Gibson and when we made it here to Okmulgee. There was a lot of emotion involved in that," he said.

Giles expressed a similar sentiment.

"The most emotion I felt was coming back into Okmulgee and Oklahoma. It was good to see family and friends. We had a homecoming when we arrived in the Southeast and a homecoming when we arrived in Oklahoma. Having two homecomings in one event is pretty unique and I'm not going to take that for granted. Especially when it's related to our culture and our heritage," he said.

He also expressed the unique feelings that came with completing the first tour.

"It was a life experience that I will appreciate the rest of my life, especially this initial ride," Giles said.

"They call Wounded Knee or Burnt Corn Creek, battles, while they call the incident at Fort Mims a massacre, even though the U.S. forces attacked native settlements the same way."
– John Beaver, cyclist on Trail of Tears Bicycle Tour

MNN/Sterling Cosper

Obituaries

HERBERT NELSON FOX

SAPULPA — Herbert Nelson Fox went to be with the Lord May 24, 2012 in Claremore, Okla.

Born to Henry and Melissa (Tiger) Fox Feb. 6, 1930 in Kellyville, Okla., Herb attended the Euchee Mission Boarding School during his early life. Herb served honorably in the United States Army and Air Force from 1949 until being honorably discharged from the Air Force on Feb. 27, 1956.

During this time he met his wife Martha Wilson, marrying her Aug. 5, 1952.

Herb was the proud father of ten children during his time on this Earth. The majority of his time was spent coaching his sons on the Sapulpa Racers as they played fast pitch softball and with the Sapulpa Hawks in basketball. He was well known throughout the state for his teams. Herb was a fixture on the sidelines for decades and was able to watch his grandchildren take the place of his sons as time went on. His influence is still felt to this day with the Oklahoma Racers, a team that includes his grandson, Micah Roger Fox.

Herb worked for Bartlett Memorial Hospital for more than 25 years until his retirement in 2000.

He is survived by his loving wife of 60 years, Martha, of the home in Sapulpa. He is also survived by sons: Steve and wife Martha, Mark and wife Sheila, and David, all of Sapulpa, Micah and wife Cynthia (Janie) of Glenpool, Adam and wife Connie of Yukon, and Phillip of Tulsa. He is also survived by daughters Stephanie Leaf and husband Robert (Bob) of Claremore, Melinda Fox of Sapulpa, Lu Columbus and husband Mike of Kiefer.

He also leaves behind numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Preceding Herb in death are his parents, Henry and Melissa Fox, sister Betty Fox, half-brother Matthew Tiger and son Roger Fox.

Services were held Tuesday May 29, 2012 at the Smith Funeral Home Chapel in Sapulpa, Okla., with burial following at the Fox Family Cemetery in Hectorville, Okla.

Officiating were Revs. Phillip Fox and Ray Samuels. Bearers were Luke Columbus, Cub Columbus, Zackary Pickering, Micah R. Fox, Dylan Fox, Dandi Fox, and Chris Leaf. Honorary bearers were Bob Leaf, Mike Columbus, Robbie Leaf, Anthony Columbus, Wiley Washington, Simon Harry and Virgil Harry. A wake service was May 28 at 6 p.m., at the same site. Funeral arrangements were under the direction of Smith Funeral Home in Sapulpa.

THANK YOU

SAPULPA — The family of Herbert Fox would like to say mvto to everyone for your prayers, food, visits, phone calls, and flowers during our loss.

We would like to express a special mvto to Pastor Ray Samuels, Pastor J.R. Wisdom and Pastor Jimmy Alexander, the staff at the Claremore Indian Hospital, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Roads Department, Social Services, Mvskoke Honor Guard and Smith's Funeral Home for your acts of kindness during this time.

Your love shown to our family met more than words could express. MVTO.

GEORGINA ELAINE CAHWEE ROWE

SAPULPA — Georgina Elaine Cahwee Rowe was born in Pawnee, Okla., Jan. 9, 1947 to Mose Cahwee and Thelma Taylor Cahwee. She passed from this life to be with her Lord June 22, 2012.

Georgina was the eldest of seven children. She was married to Jack Rowe April 18, 1969. Together, they raised four children.

She was preceded in death by her parents Mose Cahwee and Thelma Taylor Cahwee and sister Gwen Cahwee Taylor. She is survived by her husband Jack of the home; sons Kevin Rowe and wife Ellen of Sapulpa; Brian Rowe and wife Dawn of Stillwater, daughters Jackie Rowe of Tulsa; JoNita Rowe and Anthony Lunsford of Sapulpa, brothers Philip Cahwee and Danny Cahwee of Sapulpa; Dwayne Cahwee and wife Yvonne of Broken Arrow, sisters Debra Cahwee and Carol Cahwee of Sapulpa.

She is also survived by 10 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, one uncle, Elmer Taylor, of Bristow and an aunt, Betty Jones and husband Harrell Jones of Kellyville.

She worked for Creek Nation Head Start in its early years as a teacher's aide. Georgina was active in her church organizations for Pickett Chapel United Methodist. She was a homemaker and loved looking after her grandchildren. She will be greatly missed by all the lives she touched. Pall Bearers were Aaron Rowe, Anthony Lunsford, Russell Reeves, Brent Cahwee, Mike Harrison and Raymond Bearpaw.

Honorary bearers were Robert Hufft, Larry Cahwee, Darryl Jones, Harrell Jones Jr., Clifford Littlebear and Joe James. Wake services were held Monday, June 25, 2012 at 7 p.m., at Pickett Chapel. The funeral was June 26, 2012 at 2 p.m. at Pickett Chapel. Burial was held at South Heights Cemetery. Officiating was Rev. Bill Foote.

Funeral arrangements were under the direction of Smith Funeral Home in Sapulpa.

LANDON SIRAN

OKLAHOMA CITY — Landon Garrett Siran, seven years young, was granted his angel wings Feb. 12, 2012.

He was born Nov. 5, 2004 in Oklahoma City to Brandi and Phillip Siran.

He was a first grader at Nicoma Park Elementary. He loved playing outside, food, animals, Wii, legos, Indiana Jones, family and friends. He brought so much joy and laughter to everyone he encountered.

We thank God for the greatest gift anyone could ever wish for. He was the great, great grandson of Hattie Susie (Phillips) Stone of the Bird Clan.

He is survived by his momma and daddy, Brandi and Phillip Siran; Nana and Papa, Ron and Diana Watts; Grandma Linda and Grandpa Phil Siran; "Unc" Zac Watts; Aunt Brookey and Uncle Chad Rochelle; Great Grandparents, Opal and Eldon Watts, Dan and Marlene Scully, Ruth and the late Poo Jack Higdon, and Delores and John Siran.

Landon you will live in our hearts forever little man. Landon was laid to rest at Elmwood Cemetery in Choctaw, Okla.

Letters to the Editor

Citizen searches for genealogical information

MADISON, Al. — We are researching the descendants of Thomas and Rachel (Chissoe) Marshall of the Coweta, Wagoner County, Oklahoma area.

Thomas was born around 1854 and passed away Nov. 5, 1905 while Rachel was born around 1860. The date of her death is unknown. There are four children that we know of: James Marshall born April 5, 1881 and died Nov. 14, 1918; Waite Marshall born Sept. 30, 1887; Mattie Marshall born around 1888 and Ida Marshall born around 1890.

Son, James Marhsall, married Setty Apueka on Oct. 22, 1906. He died Nov. 14, 1918 and Setty passed May 21, 1914, both in Wagoner County.

They had four sons and one daughter: Thomas Marshall, Freeman Marshall, Arthur Marshall, Mary Marshall and William (or Billy) Marshall.

We are interested in speaking to any descendants of this family and hope to find photos or other information. We would be more than happy to share any information that we may have.

Richard L. Blanton, Jr.
256-325-6395

Tulsa City Council meets with MCN officials

MNN/Gary Fife

Tulsa City Council Chair G. T. Bynum presents the Key To The City of Tulsa to Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger.

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — After decades of living next to each other with little communication, leaders of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the city of Tulsa sat at the same table to explore ways to discuss issues and ideas.

A delegation of eight Tulsa city council members traveled the short distance down Highway 75 to meet with Principal Chief George Tiger and other Creek councilors, June 26. The Tulsa officials have been pursuing an agenda of meetings with northeastern tribal officials in order to find ways of working with tribes to address items that affect them all.

Finances were a big part of that discussion. The Tulsans had some questions about tax-exempt properties and the economic impacts of the Muscogee Nation on the city economy. Both groups acknowledged the effect of the River Spirit Casino, but Tiger mentioned that Tulsa benefitted from much more. He cited the tribal contributions in other areas in lieu of taxes and the addition of federal education monies for Indian students as revenue that Tulsa would not get otherwise.

Tiger noted that the two governments had been out of touch with each other for too long, "I think it's overdue. We share a community. I've always said that when we came in as the new Chief, we needed to establish relationships with the various governmental entities in the communities that we share. This was long overdue and I was glad to host the city councilors and we really had a good dialogue. We're going to follow up later on."

Tiger recalled rough spots in past dealings with Tulsa's government but said that was changing, "We've come a long ways. We're going to improve on what we're doing. Not only with this administration, but with the city councils of the respective cities that we have within our jurisdiction."

He agrees that the gaming revenues have given the tribe a lot more leverage when it comes to such discussion, "I've always said that one of the things that gaming has allowed us to do is, to some degree, level the playing field. It's also allowed us to have an impact in the communities. I think people are seeing that."

Phil Lakin, Tulsa District 8 Councilor said that city wants to know more about Creek priorities, "Understanding what the needs of the nation are, what it's desires are, how it impacts not only the city of Tulsa, but the county of Tulsa, which we're very interested in. How we can represent the 'pros and cons' of the nation and what it brings to our city, to our constituents because our constituents come to us with a number of different opinions. The more we know about the nation, the better we're able to represent those benefits and qualities of the nation."

Lakin says the MCN developments have made Tulsans pay more attention, "That creates a new understanding, but still not a significant understanding of what Muscogee (Creek) Nation is. Now, what we know about you all, is that your property owners of some major assets that provide certain benefits from some peoples' perspective and certain other qualities from other peoples' perspectives."

The tribe and city have had differences over issues in the past, but Lakin thinks this exploratory meeting should have very beneficial results, "You would think that good relations and good people working together on anything that will benefit the community will lead to good results. So, that's my hope here that we can just start off on the right foot. Certainly, we're not going to agree on everything every single time. Our constituents are going to bring demands that we haven't thought off, so we really do have to just understand the entirety of the story and the situation."

The talks did not offer any specific projects but much of it did center on developments along the Arkansas River around the areas of the River Spirit Casino and the newly purchased River Walk Crossing shopping mall in Jenks and low water dams.

Even though the MCN and Tulsa are separated by about 40 miles, there had not historically been any recognition of the other.

Tulsa was founded as a Creek community in the early 1800s, but not a lot of local residents are familiar with that beginning. With these and future talks in the works, each community should be beginning to build some cultural bridges.

Diamonds are a Bear's best friend

Darren DeLaune
MNN Sports Writer

HENRYETTA — To be a member of all-state team in a sport says that members are among the best in the state of Oklahoma. To be a two-time all-stater means a player ranks among the best.

Danielle Bear just graduated from Henryetta High School where she grabbed both all-state honors in fast and slow pitch softball. This is a first in Henryetta Public School history.

Ever since she was a little girl, Bear has always wanted to play on the diamond with her brothers and sister. Her family could tell something good was going to come from playing in the dirt and getting acquainted with the game at a very young age.

Her father Daniel talked about her younger days spent with her brothers.

"We knew she could play when she was out there with boys her age and older and beating them, in baseball," Bear said. "Boys used to get mad because she would hit home runs off of them."

Bear set a lot of goals for herself during her final season.

"My goals for this year were to make all-state," Bear said. "Also to get better every day, to push myself and strive to be better, and use my skills at playing softball to help me to get to the next level, in which I did. I'm very happy that I will be playing at the next level."

Bear played a big role this year in softball, where she had to be the rock to help keep her team going.

"I wanted to show leadership to everyone on our team," Bear said. "Not just the younger players but everyone. There were times when we all needed some motivation so they helped me just as much as I helped them."

Photo submitted/Marissa Bear
Bear belts out one of her three homeruns for the season. She also had 23 RBIs and a .490 batting average for her senior season in fast pitch.

Bear will be heading to Warner, Okla., next year to play for Connors State College. Eastern Oklahoma State College and Seminole State College were also scoping her talents but her family made the decision to choose Connors an easy one.

"I want to play for Connors because they are close to home for me and my family," Bear said. "It is not too big, which makes me think of Henryetta."

"I want to play third base, but wherever my coach wants to put me at is where I will play. I want to get out there and play," she said.

Her high school coach, Sheri Freeman, knows that she will be missed at her alma mater.

"As a coach, I will be missing Danielle so much from our team," said Freeman. "As a part of Henryetta schools, I will be missing her so much more. I'm so proud of her at how she put school first. I do not get a lot of students that are that committed. To be able to juggle school, sports and helping the community, shows what a great person Danielle is to everyone."

Bear is using this time in summer to get ready for next season. Like this season, she knows that there will be new challenges and new goals to set for herself and her team and this year, she is going to do everything to meet those challenges and goals and surpass them.

Bear is Creek-Seminole and her parents are Daniel and Melissa Bear. She is of the Hotvle (Wind) Clan and Nuyaka Tribal Town.

Holieway hosts second annual Spirit of Oklahoma Football Camp

Darren DeLaune
MNN Sports Writer

WELEETKA — The second annual Spirit of Oklahoma Football Camp was held July 6-7 in Weleetka, Okla.

Former University of Oklahoma quarterback Jamelle Holieway is the coordinator for this event, which returned to Weleetka for the second year for workouts on the gridiron.

"This year we implemented some new workouts that I believe would help with the kids," Holieway said. "We did the 40-yard dash and shuttle runs that were timed. We want to get the kids' time and then teach on how we can improve their time and teach them how to get faster and stronger."

Although it is only in its baby stage, other communities throughout the Muscogee (Creek) Nation are taking notice and getting their children to take part in this camp.

"We are happy and blessed to have this football camp come back for the second year," community member Sandi Golden said. "There are a lot of other things going on at this time and especially this week, but we still had quite a bit of kids come out and want to learn how to improve in football."

"This year we wanted to get the other communities involved and to be able to send their children down here to Weleetka." Golden said. "We sent letters and we have kids from Muscogee, Morris and Okmulgee communities, as well as the kids from around here that showed up."

One thing that Holieway is proud of is the fact that he and his coaches come to the rural areas for these camps.

"There are great football camps throughout this state and throughout this country," Holieway said.

MNN/Darren DeLaune
Pictured is Jamelle Holieway instructing participants at the Spirit of Oklahoma Football Camp July 6-7 in Weleetka, Okla.

"The problem is that they are very expensive to get to and also they have fees to attend the camp that are also expensive. That is why I wanted to bring my camp to these rural areas to get the kids around here the same training that they are doing at other football camps in bigger cities."

Holieway wanted to thank Principal Chief George Tiger and the Muscogee (Creek) National Council for helping with his event.

"I am real glad that Creek Nation has been so willing and helpful with my program. Chief Tiger and the National Council helped us out a lot and that allowed us to have an extra day to be able to teach these kids some more exercises and other things they can do after they leave this camp," Holieway said.

A collection of former players came to help Holieway and the kids in learning fundamentals, drills and gave great advice to the kids for them to take with them after camp. In addition to Holieway, Ricky Dixon, Keith Sparks and De'Mond Parker volunteered as coaches for the camp.

"I'm having a great time out here in Weleetka," Parker said. "I have never heard of Weleetka but to come out here and see these kids shows me how much the community helps one another."

One thing Parker and the other coaches stressed was making sure the kids had proper form and technique while doing drills and runs.

My main thing is trying to teach the kids the right thing to do," Parker said. "I'm not worried about time. I'm more worried about form and technique. Their times will get better and faster but you need the good technique and form in order to get faster."

In its second year, the Spirit of Oklahoma Football Camp has doubled in attendance and Holieway is expecting more kids next year.

"The more kids the better," Holieway said. "I have great coaches who have great knowledge on this sport. I want to be able to hold it here and in another place throughout Creek Nation next year."

Hamric dashes through successful freshman season in track

Darren DeLaune
MNN Sports Writer

HENRYETTA — Aundrea Hamric always knew she was a runner. She also believes if she does her best, success will follow.

Hamric, AKA "All Day," to her teammates, carried home state runner-up medals in the 400-meter dash and 1,600-meter relay as a freshman. She also came in third for the 3,200-meter relay and sixth in the 800-meter relay. Winning state medals is a big accomplishment for any athlete. For a freshman, it's even bigger.

"I am always wanting to do my best," Hamric said. "When I'm running, my team is depending on me to run my hardest and fastest. They depend on me to do that just like I depend on them."

That type of team play from each individual helped the Henryetta Knights build a great season. They expect next year to be even better and to improve on what they started this in 2012. Next season goals are to take state championships in their events.

Hamric knows it will be tough, but she is ready to tackle this goal head on.

"Next year, we have a target on our backs," Hamric said. "We know that other schools know about us now, and that gives us more motivation to work harder and do our best. We know if we do our best, we have the best opportunity to take state."

Hamric said her faith is always with her during races.

"My faith in the Lord is strong," Hamric said. "My favorite book is the Holy Bible and my favorite passage is Philippians 4:13. We always pray as a team before we race and I feel that helps us out a lot."

Although Hamric excels in track, she also loves basketball and softball as well. She and her family stay busy throughout the year, focusing on the sport of the season.

Currently, she is busy with competitive softball, which means she plays at a tournament almost every weekend against some of the best teams in the state. Hamric explains that other sports also play a role in getting her ready for track season.

"With all the sports that I play, I am constantly running," Hamric said. "So when track season comes around, I am in good shape already."

Whatever sport she's playing, family and friends are there cheering her on and giving constant support.

Her mother, Roberta Hamric, has been very supportive and knows what her daughter is capable of.

"I am so proud of what she has accomplished this early in her high school career," Hamric said. "Every sport she plays in, I feel like she is the underdog. It amazes me, and I am pretty sure it amazes her opponents at how strong and powerful she is when she is running."

Henryetta Knights Track and Field Coach Brent Wion, Henryetta had nothing but praise for Hamric.

"Aundrea did a great job this year," Wion said. "For a freshman, she stepped up into high school competition and showed great desire to help her team win. She is a heck of a competitor. She works as hard as anyone I have ever coached. The sky is the limit for Aundrea."

Hamric is Creek and Seminole. Her parents are Seth and Roberta (Birdie) Hamric. Her clan is Hotvle (Wind) and her tribal town is Kialegee.

Photo submitted/Roberta Hamric
Aundrea "All Day" Hamric was the state runner up in both the 400-meter dash and 1,600-meter relay events as a freshman.

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Division of Health preps for Urgent Care implementation

Media Release
MCN Division of Health

OKEMAH — The Creek Nation Community Hospital in Okemah is preparing for Urgent Care implementation to begin July 25, 2012.

MCN Division of Health now asks all patients to register in the main lobby at the front of the hospital.

The purpose of these changes is to increase patient and employee safety, prepare for Urgent Care implementation and improve screening process for all patients presenting to the Emergency Department.

When arriving to the Creek Nation Community Hospital, patients should expect:

• The back doors to the hospital will remain locked at all times.

• Emergency vehicles only will utilize the back doors.

• Security will be stationed where patient registration is currently located.

• Patient flow will be as follows:

1) Patient will enter the main lobby and register at Patient Registration window.

2) Patient will be triaged by a registered nurse.

3) Triage RN will call Emergency Room nurse that a patient is waiting in the lobby.

4) Patient will be seen in ER according to severity of illness.

On July 25, two treatment areas will be available for patient convenience:

• The Emergency Department is open 24 hours a day and provides care for the emergent, critical and urgent patients. We will also have an Urgent Care area that will be open from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. and will provide quick care to the less urgent and non-urgent patients.

• Once the Urgent Care is implemented the triage RN will notify either the Emergency Room nurse or Urgent Care nurse that a patient is waiting in the lobby.

• Criteria are currently being developed to determine what an emergency is and what is urgent.

For more information, contact Administrative Officer Sheryl Howell or Celesta Johnson toll free at 1-800-219-9458.

Cancer Care Community Education offered in Sapulpa through August

Media Release
MCN Division of Health

SAPULPA — The Native Navigators will host cancer continuum sessions in the northern area of MCN at the Sapulpa Creek Indian Community Center.

The educational session will be held through Aug. 2, 2012 on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. Attached is a schedule of the educational workshops to be held at the Sapulpa Creek Indian Community Center at 1020 N. Brown, in Sapulpa, Okla.

Thursday, July 19 – Get on the Path to Cervix Health

Tuesday, July 24 - Get on the Path to Lung Health

Survivorship:

Thursday, July 26 – Side Effects (NACES)

Tuesday, July 31– Survivors' Support Circles

Comfort/Palliative Care:

Thursday, Aug. 2 – Wills and Advance Directive

The navigators are Loretta Denny 918-441-6049 and Patricia Coachman 918-441-6048, office 918-758-2710. Debra Isham is the project manager.

Everyone 18 years or older will receive a $10 gift card after each session for participation.

For more information, call 918-441-6048 or 918-441-6049.

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"Caring when it counts"

MCN School Clothing Program applications now available

Media Release
MCN Social Services

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation School Clothing Program 2012/2013, is now accepting applications until Oct. 26, 2012 at 5 p.m.

This program is open to all Muscogee (Creek) citizen students no matter where they live in the United States.

The guidelines of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation School Clothing Program are as follows:

• Only one application per family will be accepted.

• Child must have been previously enrolled as a Muscogee (Creek) citizen before making application. Applicants must submit copies of each child's Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Card or a print out from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Office.

• The student must be at least three years old and enrolled in a certified Head Start (not a day care) or be four years old and enrolled in a public/private school program, pre-K through the 12th grade.

All students Head Start through 12th grade must have a school official complete the School Enrollment Form that will be provided with the application. Home schooled children ages 5-18 are also eligible and must provide accredited curriculum or original receipts of textbooks purchased, and a notarized affidavit (also must be signed by the individual providing the education). The affidavit will be provided with the application.

• The primary custodial parent or legal guardian must complete the application.

Applications may be picked up at the following locations:

- The School Clothing Program office, located behind the Social Services building at 2971 N. Wood Drive, Okmulgee, OK 74447

- Any MCN Child Development Center

- Any MCN Indian Community Center

- An application is available for download at: www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov

• Call 918-549-2473 or toll free at 1-800-482-1979 for an application to be mailed or faxed directly.

All applications must be returned or mailed to: School Clothing Program, P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK. 74447.

Please do not fax or e-mail the applications.

For more information, contact the School Clothing Program at 918-549-2473 or toll free at 1-800-482-1979, ext. 2473.

MCN Social Services Elder AC Program now available

Media Release
MCN Social Services

OKMULGEE — The air conditioner program provides window units for enrolled Creek citizens 60 years of age or older who have no air conditioning or existing air conditioning is inadequate.

Those under 60 years of age who suffer from or are otherwise prone to chronic illness are also eligible to apply. Both renters and homeowners may apply. Citizens are responsible for pick up and installation of air conditioners.

• Applicants must be enrolled Muscogee (Creek) tribal members

• At least one member of the household must be considered as vulnerable:

- Elder (60 years or older)

- Medically needy as determined by a qualified health practitioner

Required Documents

• Air Conditioner application (may be completed at office or downloaded from MCN website)

• Citizenship cards for all household members (CDIB cards not accepted)

• If medically needy, a statement from a medical doctor of medical necessity

• Notarized statement from a non-family member that the applicant's home has no air conditioner or existing air conditioner is inadequate

• Additional documents may be required based on individual circumstances.

For questions or additional information contact Social Services at 918-549-2445 or 1-800-482-1979.

MCN Social Services Energy Assistance Program now available

Media Release
MCN Social Services

OKMULGEE — Applications for the MCN Energy Assistance Program are now being processed. Applicants should submit a copy of the following documents required to determine eligibility:

LIHEAP Participants

• Current electric bill (must be in applicant and/or spouse's name)

• Citizenship card(s) or CDIB card(s) for all household members; if non-native, include driver's license or birth certificate

• Social Security card(s) for all household members

• Income or lack of income for all household members 18 years or older (check stub, unemployment benefits verification, and food stamp or commodities verification will be accepted)

•Written statement stating: I, __, authorize Creek Nation Social Services to sign my application on my behalf. I have not received assistance for my cooling bill from any other agency, community center, etc., within the past 12 months. Applicant must sign, date, and leave a phone number.

Tribal Energy Participants

• Current electric bill (must be in applicant and/or spouse's name)

• Citizenship card(s) for all household members; if non-native, include driver's license or birth certificate

• Social Security card(s) for all household members

• Written statement stating: I, __, authorize Creek Nation Social Services to sign my application on my behalf. Applicant must sign, date, and leave a phone number.

Once the applicant has received an approval letter, he/she will need to bring the approval letter to the office on any Friday in July to pick up their educational material bag.

For questions or additional information contact Social Services at 918-549-2445 or 1-800-482-1979.

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IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In re the Paternity of KALEB CURTIS HICKS:
KOLEPAH BERRYHILL, Petitioner,
and
RYAN CURTIS HICKS, Respondent.
Case No. CV-2011-158
Judge of the District Court

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BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Ryan Curtis Hicks

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued to Determine Paternity, Custody, Visitation and Support in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. CV-2011-158, styled In re the Paternity of K.C.H. born January 21, 2010, Petitioner, Kolepah Berryhill and Respondent, Ryan Cutis Hicks. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to a Paternity Determination and Order for Custody, Child Support and Visitation.

You are notified that you must answer the *Amended Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear at the hearing on the 17th day of July 2012 at 1:30 o'clock P.m. Failure to respond and/or attend will result in the allegations contained in the *Amended Petition* being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in her *Amended Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 4th day of May, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District
By: Dobie King
(Deputy)

(SEAL)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT FILED
2012 MAY 15 PM 2 1
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATIO
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

In re the marriage of:
SARIA LYNN GEARY, Petitioner,
vs.
YASSER GEHA, Respondent.
Case No. DV-2012-26

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Yasser Geha

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for divorce in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. DV-2012-26, styled In re the Marriage of Saria Lynn Geary, Petitioner and Yasser Geha, Respondent. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to a *Decree of Dissolution of Marriage* from you based on the grounds of incompatibility.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear at the hearing on the 17th day of July 2012 at 1:30 o'clock P.m. Failure to respond and/or attend will result in the allegations contained in the *Petition* being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in his *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 15th day of May, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmul
District
By: Dobie King
(Deputy)

(SEAL)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In re the Name Change of
B. L. H.
and
K. C. H.
Case Number: CV-2012-99

NOTICE OF FILING PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION TO: Whom it may concern

The Petitioners, Matthew Ellis and Valerie Richelle Hotop, have filed a *Petition for Change of Name* in the above Court to have their minor children's last name changed to reflect the father's name, the same will be heard in the courtroom before the Honorable Judge in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District Courthouse, in Okmulgee, Oklahoma, on the 23 day of August, 2012 at 1 o'clock P.m, or as soon thereafter as counsel can be heard. Any person may file a written protest in this case prior to the date set for the hearing.

Given under my hand a seal this 29 day of June, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
By: ShaVon McClenathan
Deputy Court Clerk

APPROVED FOR ISSUANCE:
Courtney L. Eagan-Smith, MCN#543
Shannon L. Prescott, MCN#165
Kurt K. Townsend, MCN#642
Gregory N. Hope, MCN#641
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Legal Services
114 N. Grand, North Lobby
Okmulgee, OK 74447
(918) 756-1112 Telephone
(918) 756-1113 Facsimile
Attorneys for Petitioners

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT FILED
2012 MAY 15 PM 2 1
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATI
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

In re the marriage of LOPEZ:
KATHERINE ELIZABETH LOPEZ, Petitioner,
vs.
CESAR EDUARDO CHACON-LOPEZ, Respondent.
Case No. DV-2012-51
Judge of the District Court

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Cesar Eduardo Chacon-Lopez

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for divorce in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. DV-2012-51, styled In re the Marriage of Katherine Elizabeth Lopez, Petitioner and Cesar Eduardo Chacon-Lopez, Respondent. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to a *Decree of Dissolution of Marriage* from you based on the grounds of incompatibility.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear at the hearing on the 17th day of July 2012 at 1:30 o'clock p.m. Failure to respond and/or attend will result in the allegations contained in the *Petition* being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in her *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 15th day of May, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmul
District
By: ShaVon McClenathan
(Deputy)

(SEAL)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In re the marriage of HARPER,
SAMUEL EDWARD HARPER, Petitioner,
vs.
DEANNA LYNN HARPER, Respondent.
Case No. DV 2012-42

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Deanna Lynn Harper

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for paternity in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. DV-2012-42, styled In re the Marriage of Harper, Samuel Edward Harper, Petitioner and Deanna Lynn Harper, Respondent. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to a *Petition for Dissolution of Marriage* from you.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear at the hearing on the 23rd day of August 2012. at 1:00 o'clock p.m. Failure to respond and/or attend will result in the allegations contained in the *Petition* being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in his *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 5th day of July, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District
By: ShaVon McClenathan
(Deputy)

(SEAL)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRI
FI
2012 JUL 5
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DONNA
COURT

IN THE MATTER OF:
T.B., DOB: 07-23-97
B.B., DOB: 09-19-05
Alleged Deprived Children.
Case No. JV-2011-03

NOTICE OF HEARING TO:

Reginald Benson, Natural Father of T.B.

YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that a Petition to Terminate Parental Rights has been filed against you in the above-styled and numbered cause and will be heard in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the 9th **day of** October 2012 at 1:00P **.M.**

YOU ARE HEREBY INFORMED that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the child remains a ward of the Court and custody be continued in the Children and Family Services Administration for continued foster placement of possible pre-adoptive placement. **YOU ARE FUTHER INFORMED** that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.

JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

Community Calendar July 2012

OIC to hold candidate forum Aug. 13

OKMULGEE — The Okmulgee Indian Community will host a candidate forum Monday, Aug. 13 during the general meeting.

Interested candidates must submit a letter of intent to the Election Committee before the July Regularly scheduled community meeting. A special meeting will be held the first week in September to elect the Board of Directors.

Mvskoke Radio to feature Speaker Alexander July 18

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — The tribally produced half hour radio program, "Mvskoke Radio" has grown to a full hour the third Wednesday of each month.

Broadcast at 9:30 a.m., on KOKL 1240 AM in Okmulgee, Mvskoke Radio's hour-long program is an effort from Mvskoke Media to increase service to Creek citizens.

The July 18 show will feature Muscogee (Creek) National Council Speaker Sam Alexander. Listeners can call in with questions or comments for Alexander at 918-756-3646 during the hour-long program.

For more information, contact Editorial Assistant and host of Mvskoke Media Gary Fife at 918-732-7643.

Pride of the Mvskoke Nation now recruiting band members

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is looking for participants for the Marching Band - these don't necessarily have to be current students, they can be former band students or just someone that can play a band instrument and be able to march in the parade, but they must provide their own instrument.

This is the only band in the state that is composed of entirely Native American tribal members, and all Muscogee (Creek) enrolled members at that.

Donations are accepted and are appreciated.

For more information, contact Melinda Deeringwater at 918-549-2521 or 918-758-9911.

Wetumka Head Start now accepting applications

WETUMKA — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Head Start in Wetumka is now accepting applications for the 2012-2013 school year. The head start is located at 333 S. Washita, in Wetumka and the phone number is 405-452-1180.

Hours of operation are 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Monday through Friday with the morning bus route starting at 8 a.m.

Transportation will be provided for pick-up and drop-off.

Requirements for the program include: parents income verification, (last year's income tax, pay stubs, W-2 form, TANF letter, SSI Letter, or statement from employer), child's immunization record, child's medical card, child's CDIB (if applicable) child's birth certificate, child's social security card.

For more information, contact Janice Birdcreek at 405-452-1180.

CMCA Gathering set for Aug. 4 in Anaheim

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The California Muscogee (Creek) Association will be hosting their annual California gathering Saturday, Aug. 4, 2012 at the Native American United Methodist Church located at 800 South Lemon, in Anaheim, Calif., (on the corner of South Street).

Representatives from several Muscogee (Creek) Nation offices will be attending the gathering where attendees will have the opportunity to learn about programs available to out-of-state citizens. The event is free and will feature a potluck lunch.

Diabetes Awareness Summit set for Aug. 28

OKEMAH — The sixth annual Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizens' Diabetes Awareness Summit will be held Aug. 28 at the First Baptist Church in Okemah, located at 120 S. 6th St.

The summit is free and open to citizens, thier spouses or significant support persons and other American Indians living in the MCN communities.

For more information, contact Irene Cully at 918-636-8735 or Duane Meadows at 918-695-1325.

Montesoma Baptist Church 125th anniversary set for Sept. 22

OKEMAH — Montesoma Indian Baptist Church will host its 125th Anniversary Celebration, Sept. 22-23 beginning at 5 p.m., Saturday. Festivities will continue with a special service later that evening at 7 p.m., and Sunday at 6 a.m., and a speaker at 11 a.m.

All are welcome to attend. For more information call 918-623-1811 or 918-623-9522.

MCN Reintegration Program seeks feedback on "Project to Overcome"

Media Release
MCN Reintegration Program

HENRYETTA — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program was recently awarded the opportunity to plan for the construction or renovation of a correctional or correctional alternative facility.

The program works with incarcerated offenders and those recently released from prison to provide an easier and more productive reentry into the community. The grant was provided by the Bureau of Justice Assistance and is intended to assist the Muscogee (Creek) Nation in determining if a facility is needed.

Currently, the MCN RIP provide housing assistance for offenders through third party vendors and pay for their rent for four months.

The program is seeking input from the citizens in the communities to determine if safer and healthier environments can be accomplished by creating a halfway house or transitional living facility with the inclusion of counseling, vocational training, educational attainment, and positive support for offenders.

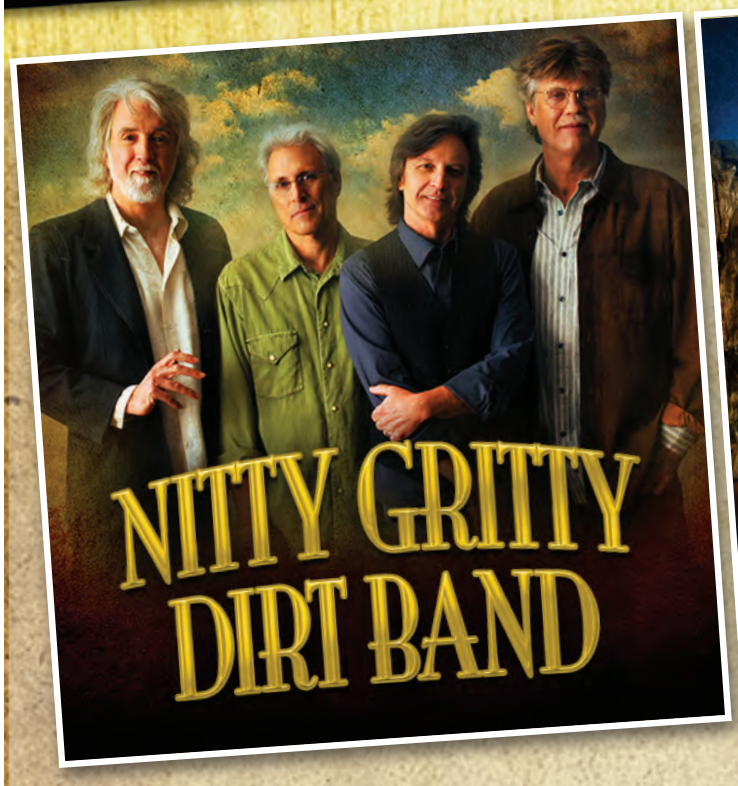
The following are the dates and times program representatives will be in local communities

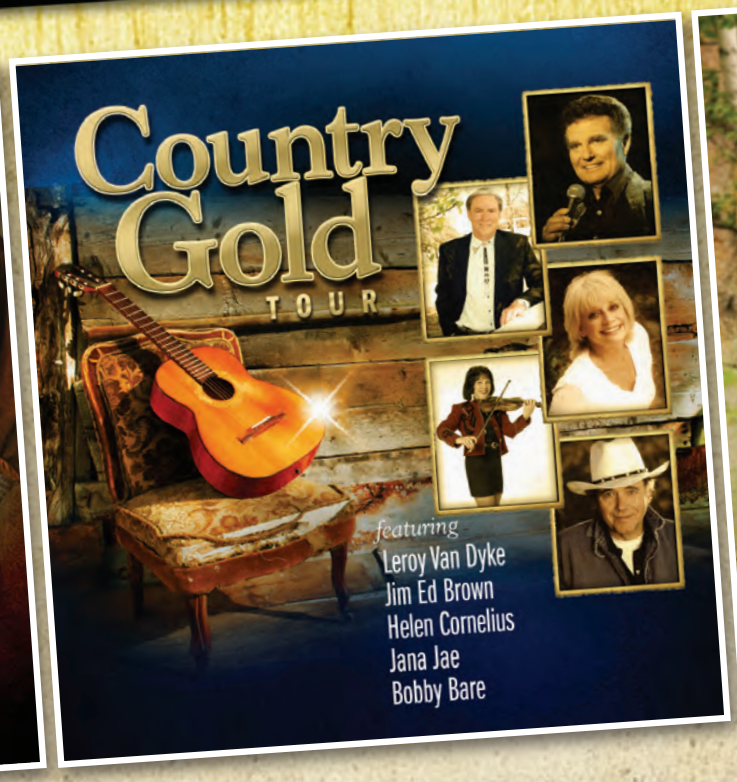
For all of those who participate in a survey, a ticket will be issued for the chance to win a gift card.

- July 26 at 6 p.m., Eufaula Indian Community
- Checotah, Muscogee, Yardeka and Hanna
- Aug. 7 at 7 p.m., Oklahoma City Indian Community
- Aug. 13 at 7 p.m., Okmulgee Indian Community
- Duck Creek, Twin Hills, Wilson, Dewar and Morris
- Aug. 14 at 7:45 p.m., Glenpool Indian Community
- Koweta, Tulsa, Sapulpa, Kellyville and Bristow

For more information, contact MCN Reintegration Program Project Coordinator Amber Nelson at 918-652-2676, ext. 110.

RIVER SPIRIT Casino
PRESENTS





JULY 1 at 7 pm
The iconic and influential Nitty Gritty Dirt Band is widely credited for launching the rock/country sound born in the 60's!
With a career that spans five decades, these music pioneers paved the way with hits like "Fishin' in the Dark", their version of "Mr. Bojangles", "American Dream" and "Long Hard Road". Tickets $30, $40 & $50.

JULY 27 at 7 pm
Don't miss this special night featuring five classic country stars!
World reknowned Leroy Van Dyke's hits include "Auctioneer" and "Walk on By". Jim Ed Brown boasts a versatile career as a recording artist and favorite Grand Old Opry star. Helen Cornelius is best known for her series of hit duets with Jim Ed Brown including, "I Don't Want to Have to Marry You" and "Morning Comes to Early". Jana Jae has earned the title "First Lady of Country Fiddle" and also starred on "Hee Haw". Grammy-winning artist, Bobby Bare, sings all your favorites including, "Detroit City", "500 Miles" and "The Game of Triangles". Tickets $30, $40 & $50

AUG 24 at 7 pm
Join country music star Tracy Lawrence for a night of toe-tappin', boot-scootin' musical entertainment.
Tracy Lawrence first burst onto the country music scene in the early 90's with four Top 10 country hits from his CD, *Sticks and Stones*, and had more than 30 singles on the Billboard Country Music Charts. Fans will be treated to songs from his new CD as well as classic favorites such as "Sticks and Stones," "Alibis," and "If the World Had a Front Porch". Tickets are $25, 35, & $50.

Rollin' on the River

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New Vision, Constant Values

MUSCOGEE

38 Festival 2012

NATION

Mvskokvlke Em Afvcketv

Festival

Continued from Page 1

The festival is a wildly popular event with attendees looking forward to it for the entire year. Most of them had their favorite part, but all enjoyed the chance to get together.

Festivalgoers took time out to answer a couple of questions from the *Muscogee Nation News*:

1. What is your favorite part of the Muscogee Festival?

2. Why is it important for the MCN to put on the annual event?

Joy Harjo, *Glenpool*

1. "It's just nice to come around and see people, people from all over. It's nice to run into people and visit."

2. "I think because it brings people together in a different kind of way. There's all these booths here and people can get a chance see what people are working on."

Augustine Williams, *Muskogee*

1. "Just seeing all the people, friends, family, arts and crafts. And frybread, which I've already had.

2. "Friends. A lot of us gather to see friends you don't see, but they all gather at the festival every year. It's just good to meet new people also. Entertainment's always nice, brings in a lot of different people. But, I think, the friends and the fellowship we have."

Kim Billie, *Tecumseh*

1. "Reuniting with family and friends that you haven't seen in a while.

2. "Meeting new people."

Clayton Foreman, *Shawnee*

1. "Same thing. Playing fastpitch (softball). The activities that go on. Just family and everything, just another get-together. Frybread, oh yeah."

2. "Get a lot of different tribes out here. They get to know us Creeks and you get to know everybody. Learn about different people, different tribes, make new friends. All these Indians get together, it's just like a big old gathering. Indian tacos and meat pies."

Susan Arkeketa, *Sand Springs*

1. "The food. I have eaten my way for two days. I love sofke, so I hit that and then my next favorite was the frybread and beans and salt pork.

2. "When you go throughout the country, you see a lot of tribes having celebrations, festivals and its just right on track in bringing people together, brings a lot of family together. I know with our family, it's a good time to come and meet and just enjoy ourselves."

Rachel Sumka, *Henryetta*

1. "The music. Gospel, and the country and the soul.

2. "I think it gives the kids something to do, some kind of activities. All the other citizens have the various things they can enjoy also."

Nadine Fixico, *Okemah*

1. "Softball, sometimes, the singers.

2. "It's a time when the people come together, meet their families, like a big family reunion. They get to enjoy all the festivities that are going on."

Vincent Coon, *Okemah*

1. "All of it actually. Coming out, getting to eat and see a lot of people I haven't seen in a while. Just hanging out."

2. "It's a great idea. That's just it. Enjoying the outside and everybody around is having a good time."

Eunice Hill, *Okmulgee*

1. "It was playing ball, at one time. But, since I can't play anymore, I just watch, I'm a spectator.

2 "It's a celebration of the year. Muscogee people get together and other people from different states, they all get together, make friends and everything."

Alice Quintain, *Skiatook*

1. "I like the rodeo, the bull riders and listening to the clown talk. It's kind of funny. The ball games, I have a granddaughter that plays."

2. "It sort of brings all the tribes together. It has something for the younger ones to look forward to."

Katrina Lowe, *Glenpool*

1. "Seeing all the people get together, seeing family, friends, meet new people. Arts and crafts. All the talent."

2. "I think it's especially important, because I work for Tourism and Recreation. I see it all come together, from entertainment to brackets to coordinators, financial, everything. I see bits and pieces of it. I see how hard everybody works. It's very important that we keep bringing more stuff for families to come to. It's awesome. Everybody did a great job."

38th Annual MCN Festival Results

Junior Olympics

1 Mile 12-13 Girls

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Jacie	Harelson	Okemah Panthers

1 Mile 14-15 Girls

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Mikah	Washington	Glenpool
2	Danielle	Fixico	Morris
3	Justice	Talamasey	Kialagee

400 Meter Relay 8-9 Girls

Place	Community
1	Okfuskee
2	Alabama Quassarte

400 Meter Relay 10-11 Girls

Place	Community
1	Okemah Panthers
2	Okmulgee
3	Okfuskee

400 Meter Relay 12-13 Girls

Place	Community
1	Koweta
2	Okemah Panthers
3	Okfuskee

400 Meter Relay 14-15 Girls

Place	Community
1	Lil Choctaws
2	Okemah
3	Alabama Quassartee

400 Meter Dash 12-13 Girls

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Brianna	Battiest	Lil Choctaws
2	Alexis	Brown	Wagoner
3	Kaitlyn	Bruce	Wagoner

400 Meter Dash 14-15 Girls

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Lauren	Billie	Lil Choctaws
2	Kenize	Bean	Okemah Panthers
3	Rosie	Martinez	Lil Choctaws

200 Meter Dash 10-11 Girls

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Allie	Flanner	Okemah Panthers
2	Breena	Jaggars	Wetumka
3	Malerie	Burgess	Okmulgee

200 Meter Dash 12-13 Girls

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Cheyanne	Sanders	Okemah Panthers
2	Nakyia	Monahwee	Okmulgee
3	Brianna	Battiest	Lil Choctaws

200 Meter Dash 14-15 Girls

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Rosie	Martinez	Lil Choctaws
2	Marissa	Proctor	Okfuskee
3	Jessica	Wright	Lil Choctaws

100 Meter Dash 8-9 Girls

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Karleigh	Landreth	Okmulgee
2	Madison	Proctor	Okfuskee
3	Kara	Bruce	Wagoner

100 Meter Dash 10-11 Girls

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Allie	Flanner	Okemah Panthers
2	Breena	Jaggars	Wetumka
3	Hailey	Roberson	Koweta

100 Meter Dash 12-13 Girls

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Christian	Wind	Okfuskee
2	Nakyia	Monahwee	Okmulgee
3	Alexis	Flanner	Okemah Panthers

100 Meter Dash 14-15 Girls

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Marissa	Proctor	Okfuskee
2	Rosie	Martinez	Lil Choctaws
3	Tori	Turner	Okemah Panthers

50 Meter Dash 6-7 Girls

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Savanah	Mann	Okfuskee
2	Riley	Hill	Alabama Quassarte Redhawks
3	Felicity	Wells	Okemah Panthers

50 Meter Dash 8-9 Girls

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Karleigh	Landreth	Okmulgee
2	SaNora	McCall	Kellyville
3	Sophie	Turner	Okemah Panthers

50 Meter Dash 10-11 Girls

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Hailey	Roberson	Koweta
2	Breenna	Jaggars	Wetumka
3	Kayleigh	Dowling	Muscogee

50 Meter Dash 12-13 Girls

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Cheyanne	Sanders	Okemah Panthers
2	Nakyia	Monahwee	Okmulgee
3	Jaidan	Watashe	Kellyville

30 Meter Dash 6-7 Girls

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Briah	Edwards	Wetumka
2	Savanah	Mann	Okfuskee
3	Jadyn	Roberts	Okfuskee

30 Meter Dash 8-9 Girls

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Sadie	Smith	Team Dallas
2	Aerial	Jaggars	Wetumka
3	Karleigh	Landreth	Okmulgee

Long Jump 6-7 Girls

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Felicity	Wells	Okemah Panthers
2	Jayley	Ray	Ueletkv
3	Samantha	Smith	Morris

Long Jump 8-9 Girls

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Laylla	Billie	Glenpool
2	Hannah	Meadows	Koweta
3	Onnatminti	Watson	Lil Choctaws

Long Jump 10-11 Girls

Place	First	Last Name	Community
1	Madison	Factor	Alabama Quassartee Redhawks
2	Morgan	Bean	Okemah Panthers
3	Dayna	Harjochee	Okfuskee

Long Jump 12-13 Girls

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Kaitlyn	Bruce	Wagoner
2	Hailey	Robinson	Koweta
3	Kaylynn	Sherrell	Kialegee

Long Jump 14-15 Girls

Place	First	Last Name	Community
1	Kenzie	Bean	Okemah Panthers
2	Cynda	Factor	Alabama Quassarte Riverhawks
3	Samantha	Banta	Okemah Panthers

Softball Throw 6-7 Girls

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Jayley	Ray	Ueletkv
2	Mena	Harrison	Okfuskee
3	Alexia	Harjo	Okfuskee

SoftBall Throw 8-9 Girls

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Kailyn	Bearpaw	Kellyville
2	Allie	Harrison	Okfuskee
3	Gaya-Blaze	Ratliff	Okemah Panthers

Softball Throw 10-11 Girls

Place	First	Last Name	Community
1	Madison	Factor	Alabama Quassartee Redhawks
2	Kaitlyn	Mouse	Kellyville
3	Erin	Barnett	Alabama Quassartee Redhawks

Hoop Shoot 10-11 Girls

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Kaelyn	Roberts	Okfuskee
2	Cambry	Barbette	Bristow
3	Nayukpa	Ramsey	Lil Choctaws

Hoop Shoot 12-13 Girls

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Alisha	Hicks	Okfuskee
2	Alexis	Brown	Wagoner
3	Nakea	Harjochee	Okfuskee

Hoop Shoot 14-15 Girls

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Tori	Turner	Okemah Panthers
2	Cynda	Factor	Alabama Quassarte Riverhawks
3	Danielle	Fixico	Morris

Tug of War 6-7 Girls

Place	Community
1	Okemah
2	Alabama Quassarte
3	Okmulgee

Tug of War 8-9 Girls

Place	Community
1	Lil Choctaw
2	Kellyville
3	Okemah

Jump Rope 6-7 Girls

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Savanah	Mann	Okfuskee
2	Shalyn	Edmundson	Okemah
3	Caydence	Matlock	Polecat

Jump Rope 8-9 Girls

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Erin	Barnett	Alabama Quassarte Redhawks
2	Kailyn	Bearpaw	Kellyville
3	Aerial	Jaggars	Wetumka

1 Mile 12-13 Boys

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Khalil	Harris	Morris
2	Jason	Bigpond Jr.	Bristow
3	Caleb	Bigpond	Glenpool

1 Mile 14-15 Boys

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Mekko	Washington	Checotah
2	Alec	Bird	Okfuskee
3	Ryan	Titsworth	Okemah Panthers

400 Meter Relay 8-9 Boys

Place	Community
1	Wagoner
2	Checotah
3	Okfuskee

400 Meter Relay 10-11 Boys

Place	Community
1	Bristow
2	Wagoner
3	Okfuskee

400 Meter Relay 12-13 Boys

Place	Community
1	Morris
2	Wetumka
3	Koweta

400 Meter Relay 14-15 Boys

Place	Community
1	Okemah Panthers
2	Morris
3	Checotah

400 Meter Dash 12-13 Boys

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Mitchell	Jack	Lil Tenetke
2	Jacob	Meadows	Koweta
3	Khalil	Harris	Morris

400 Meter Dash 14-15 Boys

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Mekko	Washington	Checotah
2	Stephen	Armour	Morris
3	Chance	Tanner	Checotah

200 Meter Dash 10-11 Boys

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Tenetke	King	Okfuskee
2	Silas	Crockett	Muscogee
3	Diege	Jones	Okfuskee

200 Meter Dash 12-13 Boys

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Isaiah	Hicks	Okemah Panthers
2	Jacob	Meadows	Koweta
3	Jordan	Berryhill	Wetumka

200 Meter Dash 14-15 Boys

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Logan	Daily	Okemah Panthers
2	Devin	Deeringwater	Okmulgee
3	Mekko	Washington	Checotah

100 Meter Dash 8-9 Boys

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Avery	Hodges	Wagoner
2	Braden	Drake	Wagoner
3	Malachi	Jones	Checotah

100 Meter Dash 10-11 Boys

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Sylis	Crockett	Muscogee
2	Esaias	Harrison	Wetumka
3	Billy	Waltrip	Bristow

100 Meter Dash 12-13 Boys

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Eugene	Kahbeah Jr.	Morris
2	Cecil	Rhodes	Muscogee
3	Eric	Dan	Individual

100 Meter Dash 14-15 Boys

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Devin	Deeringwater	Okmulgee
2	Logan	Dailey	Okemah Panthers
3	Dakota	Kahbeah	Morris

50 Meter Dash 6-7 Boys

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Avery	Ortiz	Individual
2	Keaton	Impson	lil Choctaws
3	Justin	Meadows	Koweta

50 Meter Dash 8-9 Boys

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Isaiah	Burkhalter	Checotah
2	Maddox	Brown	Wagoner
3	Braden	Drake	Wagoner

50 Meter Dash 10-11 Boys

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Sylis	Crockett	Muscogee
2	Esaias	Harrison	Wetumka
3	Alex	O'Quinn	Wagoner

50 Meter Dash 12-13 Boys

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Cecil	Rhodes	Muscogee
2	Eugene	Kahbeah Jr.	Morris
3	Deven	Raines	Okfuskee

30 Meter Dash 6-7 Boys

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Avery	Ortiz	Individual
2	Mekusapv	Martel	Okmulgee
3	Kegan	Burgess	Morris

30 Meter Dash 8-9 Boys

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Braden	Drake	Wagoner
2	Malachi	Jones	Checotah
3	Avery	Hodges	Wagoner

Long Jump 6-7 Boys

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Justin	Meadows	Koweta
2	Keaton	Impson	Lil Choctaws
3	Kaiden	Bear	Ueletkv

Long Jump 8-9 Boys

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Maddox	Brown	Wagoner
2	William	Edwards	Kellyville
3	Phoenix	Randleman	Individual

Long Jump 10-11 Boys

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Alex	O'Quinn	Wagoner
2	Levi	Jones	Wagoner
3	Kaden	Charboneau	Wagoner

Long Jump 12-13 Boys

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Jacob	Meadows	Koweta
2	Markayle	Casey	Okmulgee
3	Nelson	Harjo	Weleetka

JUNIOR OLYMPICS

Long Jump 14-15 Boys

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Thomas	Golden	Weleetka
2	Devin	Deeringwater	Okmulgee
3	Tyler	Hill	Muscogee

Softball Throw 6-7 Boys

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Brody	Murphy	Ueletkv
2	Keegan	Burgess	Morris
3	Avery	Ortiz	Individual

SoftBall Throw 8-9 Boys

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Korey	West	Okfuskee
2	Aaron	Morgan	Okmulgee
3	Dominique	Landers	Okemah Panthers

Softball Throw 10-11 Boys

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Brandsyn	Givens	Kialegee
2	Tenetke	King	Okfuskee
3	Rickey	Harjo Jr.	Ueletkv

Hoop Shoot 10-11 Boys

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Senhelvpke	Frazier	Kialegee
2	Tafv	Sanders	Okmulgee
3	Anthony	Buckley	Muscogee

Hoop Shoot 12-13 Boys

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Nic	McCutchen	Checotah
2	Christian	Perez	Glenpool
3	Willie	Dobbs	Muscogee

Hoop Shoot 14-15 Boys

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Ryan	Titsworth	Okemah Panthers
2	Kendall	Tiger	Okfuskee
3	Joseph	Barnett	Alabama Quassarte RedHawks

Tug of War 6-7 Boys

Place			Community
1			Okmulgee A
2			Okmulgee B
3	Kareffren	Bagby	Alabama Quassarte RedHawks
	Sutf	Jack	
	Phillip	Thatford	
	Dakota	Barnett	

Tug of War 8-9 Boys

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Keyounee	Seals	Okmulgee
	Justin	James	
	Charles	Mason	
	Yahola	Sanders	
2	Kolby	Burgess	Morris
	Jeremiah	Jones	
	Parris	Melton	
	Marlo	Fox	
	Jesse	Chisum	
3			Checotah

Jump Rope 6-7 Boys

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Isaiah	McCall	Kellyville
2	Jayden	Hill	Muscogee

Jump Rope 8-9 Boys

Place	First Name	Last Name	Community
1	Colby	Bippond	Bristow
2	Cooper	Evans	Bristow
3	Colin	Condict	Wagoner

PARADE

Community Parade Winners

1 Pue'ta'ke V'ca'ke Muscogee Language Immersion and Farm School
2 Middle Creek Church #2
3 Okfuskee Indian Community

MCN Department Parade Winners

1 NASA – Rita Courtwright
2 Reintigration Program - Tony Fish or Caressa Lewis
3 Veterans Affairs Services Office – Ken Davis

SPORTS

Co-Ed Volleyball

Place	First Name	Last Name	Team
1	Melissa	Shannon	Sun Devils
	Tessie	Jimboy	
	Matt	Chamberlain	
	Tony	Chau	
	Ethan	Bell	
	Patty	Starr	
2	Byron	Proctor	Wild Sets
	Billie	Proctor	
	Brian	Culley	
	Lee	Johnson	
	John	Billie	
	Lisa	Billie	
	Melissa	Culley	
3	Lisa	Williams	Blockheads
	Nick	Gunville	
	Joey	Burger	
	Carey	Tom	
	Sheila	Davis	
	Lori	Hamilton	
	Joel	Hill	

5K Race

Place	Name	Division	Time
1	Brandon Payne	M2024 1/3	16:53 3:23 16:53
2	Garret Morton	M1315 1/7	16:59 3:24 16:59
3	Jacob Janzen	M1619 1/5	18:20 3:40 18:20
4	James Ashford	M1315 2/7	18:22 3:41 18:22
5	John Bates	M1619 2/5	18:53 3:47 18:53
6	Kaleb Harris	M1315 3/7	20:41 4:09 20:41
7	Jordan Tuttle	M1315 4/7	20:58 4:12 20:58
8	Alex Hicks	M1619 3/5	21:14 4:15 21:14
9	Richard Davidson	M6098 1/13	21:17 4:16 21:17
10	Leetka Berryhill	M1619 4/5	21:32 4:19 21:32
11	Robert Amgnoe	M4549 1/4	22:03 4:25 22:03
12	Andi Gourd	F1619 1/3	22:10 4:26 22:10
13	Barrett Dahl	M2024 2/3	22:13 4:27 22:13
14	Josiah Dorsey	M2024 3/3	22:36 4:32 22:36
15	John McIntosh	M4044 1/3	22:45 4:33 22:45
16	James Monroe	M2529 1/2	23:12 4:39 23:12
17	Eric Janzen	M4549 2/4	23:38 4:44 23:38
18	Jim Guyot	M5054 1/5	23:45 4:45 23:45
19	Ray Love	M6098 2/13	24:39 4:56 24:39
20	Toby Hummingbird	F4044 1/14	24:40 4:56 24:40
21	Fred Ashley	M2529 2/2	25:06 5:02 25:06
22	Kaden Tiger	M1619 5/5	25:10 5:02 25:10
23	Kobe Harrison	M0112 1/7	25:11 5:03 25:11
24	Cade Dean	M0112 2/7	25:33 5:07 25:33
25	Kristen Pratt	F2529 1/9	25:34 5:07 25:34
26	Steven Yahola	M5559 1/2	25:47 5:10 25:47
27	Teresa Notah	F4549 1/15	25:58 5:12 25:58
28	Tim McHugh	M4044 2/3	26:22 5:17 26:22
29	Ken Harjo	M6098 3/13	26:33 5:19 26:33
30	Ethan Tanyan	M1315 5/7	26:37 5:20 26:37
31	Hannah Brown	F2529 2/9	26:43 5:21 26:43
32	Trenton St. Germaine	M1315 6/7	26:45 5:21 26:45
33	Justice Talamasey	F1619 2/3	26:56 5:24 26:56
34	Leon Yahola	M6098 4/13	26:57 5:24 26:57
35	Jim McFadden	M6098 5/13	26:57 5:24 26:57
36	Kylie Gaede	F1315 1/4	27:11 5:27 27:11
37	James Pope	M3034 1/6	27:18 5:28 27:18
38	Simeon Lee	M3034 2/6	27:41 5:33 27:41
39	Jon Lee	M5054 2/5	28:10 5:38 28:10
40	Andrew Fixico	M0112 3/7	28:19 5:40 28:19
41	Geri Wisner	F4044 2/14	28:22 5:41 28:22
42	Dodson Frank	M3539 1/2	28:23 5:41 28:23
43	Aiyanna Tanyan	F1315 2/4	28:29 5:42 28:30
44	Jessica Wisner-Randlem	F2529 3/9	28:41 5:45 28:41
45	Stephen Wind	M5559 2/2	29:05 5:49 29:05
46	Raychel Herrick	F2024 1/3	29:13 5:51 29:13
47	Marla Avila-Frank	F3034 1/13	29:14 5:51 29:14
48	Tracy Dean	F3539 1/8	29:19 5:52 29:19
49	Rena Tiger	F4044 3/14	29:31 5:55 29:31
50	Samuel Alexander	M6098 6/13	29:49 5:58 29:49
51	Emily Ashford	F1315 3/4	29:57 6:00 29:57
52	Jayme Allen	F2529 4/9	30:09 6:02 30:09
53	Crystal Yargee	F3034 2/13	30:12 6:03 30:12
54	Michael Goodman	M5054 3/5	30:20 6:04 30:20
55	Christopher Azbell	M3034 3/6	30:42 6:09 30:42
56	Alan Washington	M4549 3/4	30:46 6:10 30:46
57	Rachel Guyot	F0112 1/8	30:59 6:12 30:59
58	Melissa Reid	F4044 4/14	31:01 6:13 31:01
59	Sarah Johnston	F1619 3/3	31:12 6:15 31:12
60	Jake Tiger	M1315 7/7	32:14 6:27 32:14
61	Laura Washington	F3034 3/13	32:18 6:28 32:18
62	Leslie Coffee	F3539 2/8	32:25 6:29 32:25
63	Tracy Anquve	F4549 2/15	32:42 6:33 32:42
64	Carla Parnacher	F4549 3/15	33:12 6:39 33:12
65	Kimberlee Jackson	F4549 4/15	33:15 6:39 33:15
66	Pete Coser, Jr.	M3034 4/6	33:41 6:45 33:41
67	Melanie Edwards	F3034 4/13	34:06 6:50 34:06
68	Leta Tolbert	F2024 2/3	34:21 6:53 34:21
69	Debra Gee	F4044 5/14	34:34 6:55 34:34
70	Rachel Saylors	F3034 5/13	34:51 6:59 34:51
71	Glenda Herrod-Fixico	F4549 5/15	35:09 7:02 35:09
72	Angelo Fixico	M0112 4/7	35:09 7:02 35:09
73	Duane Meadows	M3539 2/2	35:54 7:11 35:54
74	Rhonda Bruner	F4044 6/14	35:57 7:12 35:57
75	Karen Fish	F3539 3/8	36:18 7:16 36:18
76	Georgina Tanyan	F1315 4/4	36:35 7:19 36:35
77	Melinda Byrd	F6098 1/7	37:01 7:25 37:01
78	Garrett Yesslith	M0112 5/7	37:14 7:27 37:14
79	Christina Tomah	F2529 5/9	37:18 7:28 37:18
80	Ron Mayes	M6098 7/13	37:19 7:28 37:19
81	Cogee Wolf	F0112 2/8	37:30 7:30 37:30
82	Isabel Davis	F0112 3/8	37:35 7:31 37:35
83	Sherry Kenrick	F4044 7/14	37:41 7:33 37:41
84	John Cates	M4044 3/3	37:46 7:34 37:46
85	Billy Kelley	M5054 4/5	37:47 7:34 37:47
86	Sadie Wolf	F0112 4/8	38:19 7:40 38:19
87	Karen Moser Lee	F5054 1/6	38:25 7:41 38:25
88	Bobbi Jo Crouch	F4044 8/14	38:27 7:42 38:27
89	Lehsha Leblanc	F3539 4/8	38:33 7:43 38:33
90	Susan Combs	F6098 2/7	38:40 7:44 38:40
91	Mary Narcomey	F4549 6/15	38:49 7:46 38:49
92	Jean Wilbourn	F6098 3/7	38:58 7:48 38:58
93	Erica Haro	F2529 6/9	39:16 7:52 39:16
94	Michelle Do Keawphalou	F3034 6/13	39:34 7:55 39:34
95	Kittiboon Narangajavan	M3034 5/6	39:34 7:55 39:34
96	Jeana Wilson	F2529 7/9	39:47 7:58 39:47
97	Nadine Duvall	F4549 7/15	40:11 8:03 40:11
98	Pier Shook	F4549 8/15	41:42 8:21 41:42
99	Kathy Irwin	F4549 9/15	42:37 8:32 42:37
100	Matthew Fixico	M0112 6/7	42:38 8:32 42:38

Art Festival

Basketry

Place	Name	Entry
1	Mary Edwards Smith	"Southeastern Mat"
2	Sandy Fife Wilson	"Quiver with Double Lightning"
3	Ronda Talbert Moss	"Turtle Creek"

Painting/Graphics

Place	Name	Entry
1	Doug Crowder II	"Tenley"
2	Jon Mark Tiger	"Grandmother's Kitchen"
3	Dana Tiger	"Medicine Man"

Photography

Place	Name	Entry
1	Brenda K. Bradford	"Lunch Time"
2	Christina Screechowl	"Master Carver"
3	Robby McMurtry	"Trophy Room"

Traditional Arts

Place	Name	Entry
1	Sandy Fife Wilson	"Triple Diamonds"
2	Jacqueline Hanna	"Spirit Walker"
3	Harry M. Beaver	"Blue Heron"

Pottery

Place	Name	Entry
1	Mel Cornshucker	"For the Night"
2	Scott Roberts	"Echoes of the Past"
3	Mike Daniel	"Fire and Rain"

Sculpture

Place	Name	Entry
1	James Martinez	"Memories - The Good Games"
2	Ron Mitchell	"Mystic Warrior"
3	Dusty Billie	"Majestic"

Council House Museum Legacy Award

Robby McMurtry — "Trophy Room"

The MCN Council House wishes to thank the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee Main Street, Oklahoma Art Council, the National Endowment for the Arts and Featured Artist Bill McCulley for participating in the 2012 Juried Art Competition.

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19th ANNIVERSARY

JULY 28TH 2012

NOON - 9:00PM

All Diamond Club members will receive $19 match play
19 hot seat drawings every hour from 1:00PM - 9:00PM for $100 free plays.
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Inside the MNN:

Feature - Alexander speaks on Mvskoke Radio

Youth - Roberts and "6Town" play stickball

Radio - Page 2

Youth - Page 5

Muscogee Nation News

Official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and a production of Mvskoke Media

Creek hoopsters take to the court with Tulsa Shock

"Dribble to Stop Diabetes" participants learn tips for healthy lifestyles

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) teamed up with the Women's National Basketball Association's Tulsa Shock at the Panther Dome in Okemah for a "Dribble to Stop Diabetes" Clinic and Traveling Practice, July 26. It is the second for the team and the MCN.

The event aimed to promote the importance of healthy, active lifestyles, as well as diabetes awareness, prevention and management through the campaign, "Dribble to Stop Diabetes." It gave young basketball players an opportunity to participate in a skills clinic with a professional coach and work with Tulsa Shock players.

WNBA stars such as former OU All-American Courtney Paris, Ivory Latta, Kayla Peterson, Amber Holt and Glory Johnson were among the Tulsa Shock players on hand. The Shock mascot "Volt" gave a slam-dunk show.

Joe Crawford, President of the Shock Basketball Academy, summed up the combination learning and practice drills for the youth, "We're going to be doing a ton of basketball. We're going to be doing ball handling drills and shooting drills. It's going to be active and exciting, enthusiastic. They're also going to talk about some healthy lifestyles. We're going to really make this a good event for the kids, fitness-wise, health-wise." The sport of basketball, he said, is effective because it's so popular with children, "A ton of kids love it. Everywhere we go, we get really good turn-outs."

MNN/Gary Fife

Players from the WNBA's Tulsa Shock hosted a "Dribble to Stop Diabetes" Clinic and Traveling Practice July 26 for Muscogee (Creek) youth at the Panther Dome in Okemah, Okla.

Marlene Livaudais, Director of Sponsorship for the Tulsa Shock, explained the goals of the clinic, "It's really to bring a message to the Creek Nation youth that exercise and healthy eating habits really help to prevent diabetes. Kids love basketball. It's a proven fact that more kids play team basketball than any other sport."

Livaudais said that Shock and the Creek Nation have similar goals for young people, so the partnership works well, "A lot of our initiative align well together. The Tulsa Shock is all about being healthy, teaching fitness and wellness as one of our major initiatives for our teams and that's one of the major initiatives for the Creek Nation."

Youth that attended the clinic enjoyed themselves and picked up some pointers.

SEE SHOCK - 11

MCN Citizens' Diabetes Awareness summit set for Aug. 28

Media Release
MCN Division of Health

OKEMAH — The sixth annual MCN Citizens' Diabetes Awareness Summit will be held at the Okemah First Baptist Church, located at 120 South 6th St., in Okemah, Okla., Tuesday, Aug. 28, 2012.

Participants should arrive from 7 - 8:45 a.m., for cholesterol checks (fasting is required) and registration for the event. Choices of exercise available include: walking, Tai Chi, yoga, Zumba or chair exercises which will begin at 7:30 a.m.

The summit program will be held from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Lunch and snacks will be provided and the free event is open to all tribal citizens as well as spouses or support persons and other American Indians living in MCN communities.

SEE SUMMIT - 11

Mvskoke Film Festival to showcase Native Films

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

JENKS — The first annual Mvskoke Film Festival is calling for entries for the event, which will showcase the talents of Native filmmakers at the three-day festival Sept. 25, 28 and 29.

Entries will be accepted until Sept. 14.

The festival will be held at Riverwalk Movies, 300 Riverwalk Terrace in Jenks, Okla.

"We are excited to bring this event to Tulsa and hope people really enjoy it," said Gerald Wofford, Mvskoke Film Festival co-coordinator.

The festival will have five categories: Documentary, Feature, Animation, Comedy and Student Film.

"The student category will be high school and college individually," Wofford said.

A scholarship is also being created for both student categories, and will be awarded at an awards banquet the evening of Sept. 25. Winners of the festival entries will also be recognized at the banquet, which will be a 'red-carpet' style event for attendees.

To submit a film, individuals must be one-fourth Native American and a citizen of a federally recognized tribe.

A $35 entry fee is required per entry for professional films, and a $10 entry fee is required for students per entry.

Entries must be submitted in Blu-ray disc format.

For more information about the festival and awards banquet, contact co-coordinators Gerald Wofford at 918-732-7635, or Christina Good Voice at 918-732-7630.

Morris Indian Community to elect officers Sept. 6

Media Release
Morris Indian Community

MORRIS — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Morris Indian Community will elect officers Sept. 6, 2012 for the following positions: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and Sergeant at Arms.

Qualifications are as follows for a position on the Board of Directors:

1. Must be a member of the Community; and

2. Must be a full citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, as defined in Article III, § of the Constitution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

The term of office shall be for a period of two years beginning Oct. 1 and ending Sept. 30.

Letters of intent will be accepted through Aug. 30 and should be mailed to: Morris Indian Community, P.O. Box 22, Morris, OK 74445.

The election will take place Sept. 6, 2012 at Trinity Baptist Church during the regularly scheduled meeting at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Lizanne Holata at 918-319-0406 or Billy Jack Wilson at 918-752-7195.

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Aug. 1, 2012
Vol. 42, Issue 15
"Hiyo Rakko"
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MvskokeMedia

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Gary Fife

Reporter
Sterling Cosper

Sports Writer
Darren DeLaune

Feature Writer
Gerald Wofford

Circulation
Wilma Lewis

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Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Please contact our office for deadline of submissions to be considered for inclusion. The **Muscogee Nation News** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate The **Muscogee Nation News** in any regard.

The **Muscogee Nation News** is mailed from Stigler, Okla., to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

To submit a change of address or a letter to the editor, call (918) 732-7720 or send e-mail to: wlewis@mcn-nsn.gov

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In Tribal Communities

Alexander featured on hour-long Mvskoke Radio

National Council Speaker Sam Alexander addressed questions from listeners during the hour-long call-in show July 18.

Story by Sterling Cosper
Interview by Gary Fife
MNN Staff

OKMULGEE — Mvskoke Radio welcomed Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Speaker Sam Alexander July 18 as a guest on its special hour-long call-in show held every third Wednesday of the month at 9:30 a.m., on KOKL 1240 AM in Okmulgee. The call-in number at KOKL is 918-756-3646.

During this program, Alexander took questions from listeners and hosts Gary Fife and Gerald Wofford on issues affecting the tribe.

Executive Session Requirements:

The government of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is made up of judicial, executive and legislative branches intended to check and balance each another. The National Council, which is the law-making body of this system, conducts meetings, which are to remain public unless the legislation discussed meets criteria specified in the MCN code of law.

Alexander explained that no legislation could be voted on in executive session and gave several examples of issues that may be discussed in these sessions.

"You don't want to discuss proprietary issues like business; you don't want to discuss litigation and personnel issues and you don't really want to embarrass anyone in an open forum. Other than that, there is really no reason to go into executive session," Alexander said.

The National Council rules of procedure feature different language than that of the MCN code pertaining to when these meetings can be held (**see sidebar to compare language of each document pertaining to National Council Rules of Proceedure**).

The *Muscogee Nation News* requested clarification regarding this difference in language from the MCN Office of the Attorney General and was referred to the National Council's Attorney Zeke Fletcher in Lansing, Mich. The MNN contacted Fletcher via email at approximately 8:30 a.m., July 20 and received no comment as of press time July 25.

Special Appropriations

Fife also inquired about the National Council's guidelines for approving requests for special appropriations. Alexander explained that a legislative clerk at the council's office consults a folder containing guidelines for appropriations each time they receive a request for a special appropriation.

Alexander pointed out that these requests could be defeated at several points in the legislative process.

"I was at a meeting the other night when a special appropriation came up but there was no second, so a lot of thought goes into the consideration of these requests," Alexander said.

Alexander also mentioned a bill introduced several years ago that limited special appropriations (**see text box below and continued on page 3 to view this legislation**).

He explained that most appropriations are requests from people that are unable to get assistance from MCN social programs due to income requirements.

"Some of our people unfortunately will not fit into these guidelines, but still need the help," Alexander said.

According to Alexander, most people asking for special appropriations see the National Council as a last resort.

"Frankly, most of the people asking for these things are embarrassed that they have to do it," he said.

He also shared his personal feelings about these appropriations.

"I hope we never become such a big government that we forget about compassion and the need these families have," Alexander said.

Free Press

A caller during the program asked Alexander about the possibility of an independent newspaper within the MCN.

See Radio - 3

Executive Session Language Comparrioson

National Council Rules of Procedure

Section 101.
Supremacy of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Constitution and Tribal Ordinances
The 1979 Constitution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and tribal laws of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation are hereby declared to be supreme to these Rules of Procedures. The National Council shall abide by the Constitution and tribal laws while conducting official business.

Sec. 104.
Authority for Rules of Procedures
"The Muscogee (Creek) National Council shall determine the rules of its proceedings"(Article VI, Section 4. (B) of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Constitution).

Section 115 O.
Executive Session
Meetings of the National Council may be conducted in executive session. Such a meeting is one in which only members and invited persons are in attendance. An executive session should be held only when the nature of the discussion is determined to be of confidential nature and in the best interest of the Nation. Confidential matters would include, but not be limited to personnel, attorney-client, privileged, and other matters deemed confidential by the majority vote. In executive session neither minutes nor official votes are to be taken. Communications made while in executive session are not to be discussed outside the closed assembly.

Muscogee (Creek) Code Annotated 2012 Second Edition

Title 37, Chapter 5, Section 102
Executive Session
A. If excepted subjects are to be discussed at a meeting or session, the meeting or session must first be convened as a public meeting and the question of holding an executive session to discuss matters that come within the majority vote of the body. No subjects may be considered at the executive session except those mentioned in the main motion calling for the executive session unless auxiliary to the main question. No action may be taken at the executive session.

B. The following excepted subjects may be discussed in an executive session.

1. Matters, the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the government unit.

2. Subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person provided the person may request a public discussion.

3. Matters, which by law, Community Charter, or law are required to be kept confidential.

National Council Amendment 10-032 to Title 35 Chapter 9 of the MCN Code Entitled Special Appropriations

Section 9-103. Special appropriation guidelines

Special appropriations may be made on the basis of need, giving priority to needs for the purpose of preservation or maintenance of home and/or life, when such needs cannot be met by existing programs of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation or its entities.

Individual citizens requesting assistance based on need, must have applied for services through the Social Services Department or appropriate department before asking for a special appropriation, and provide verification of any application for service. All other special appropriations will be considered only on the availability of funds and such requests shall be in compliance with Section B of this Subchapter. Limitation on Award: Any individual or organization may only receive funds under this appropriation once per fiscal year.

A. Appropriations for health and welfare needs will be based on actual financial needs, and will not require participation in the funding of such needs by the individuals for the following:

1. Health - for the purpose of procuring and providing medical treatment, medication, and transportation for medical purposes.

a. Individuals must have requested assistance through the Health Division and/or the Social Services Department and either have received as sistance or been denied assistance before request ing an appropriation under this Section.

2. Welfare - for the purpose of assisting citizens for such needs as rent, utilities, emergency repairs.

a. Individuals must have a legitimate need for assistance and must have requested assistance through the Social Services Department or ap propriate department and either have received as sistance or been denied assistance before request ing an appropriation under this Section. Individu als who have received assistance from the Nation within the past six months will not be considered priority.

B. All other special appropriations will be considered on the availability of funds and in the absence of any reservation of available funds for needs cited in Title 35, § 9-101. An attached budget shall be submitted with each request. Such funding by the Nation will be based on the following:

See Appropriations - 3

MNN/Rebecca Landsberry

Muscogee (Creek) National Council Speaker Sam Alexander answered callers' questions about parliamentary procedure July 18 on the hour-long edition of Mvskoke Radio on KOKL AM 1240 in Okmulgee, Okla.

Radio

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Alexander responded by expressing his doubt that this would ever occur.

"I'm not sure any Indian tribe anywhere will have an independent newspaper as long as they are funded like they are. You could set up the paper to break off and be completely separated from the administration but it would take a significant effort," Alexander said.

There are, however, two tribally funded independent newspapers in Okla., the *Osage Nation News* and *Cherokee Phoenix*, which are both funded by their respective tribes and have legislation providing free press.

National Council Meeting Sound Issues

Both citizens and Alexander himself have expressed their concern about the ability to hear the National Council representatives during the monthly regular sessions. This problem occurs in both the televised broadcast of the meetings and in the mound building where the meetings occur.

Fife asked Alexander about his feelings on the subject.

"When I sat out there last session, I couldn't hear people sitting across the table," Alexander said.

Alexander stated that all the representatives will have microphones during the next regular session and that he plans to have a professional evaluation of the building completed between the July and August regular sessions to help improve the broadcast quality of the meetings.

Listen or call in to Mvskoke Radio Wed. Aug. 15 at 9:30 a.m. on KOKL 1240 AM in Okmulgee for the next call-in guest who will be the new MCN Health Director Seneca Smith. The call-in number at KOKL is 918-756-3646.

Appropriations (continued from 2)

1. Educational/Curricular - Requests for funding beyond the assistance provided by the Nation will require proof, and will further require self-funding by the" individual / entity equal to no less than 50% of the stated need. School curricular and extra-curricular activities and athletics will be considered under this subsection. Funds received from the Nation through any other grant or assistance program shall not be considered in the self-funding requirement.

2. Churches and Ceremonial Grounds - Requests for funding for Muscogee (Creek) Traditional Churches and Ceremonial Grounds must apply through the Comprehensive Assistance Grant Program. Churches and Ceremonial Grounds that do not qualify for the Comprehensive Assistance Grant shall not be eligible to receive special appropriations through the National Council unless by waiver of the National Council through section C of this subsection.

3. Sports/Ball teams/Hobbies - Requests for organized sports/ball teams or hobbies that are not part of school curricular or activity may receive funding up to $500.00 per organization per year. Individual requests will be based on need up to $250.00 per year. Such funding shall receive the lowest level of priority, and will be funded based upon a first come, first served basis, after the more highly prioritized needs are met.

4. Burial Assistance - Requests for Burial Assistance may only receive funding if the individual does not qualify under Burial Assistance for the tribe. Appropriations will not be made above the full assistance from the tribe and BIA unless there are special circumstances. Such circumstances will be determined by the proper Standing Committee.

5. Communities - Requests for special appropriations from Communities may receive funding with a resolution from the Community Board of Directors or appropriate board or committee established with an approved budget. The budget shall be detailed with specific line items and receipts for expenditures shall be returned to the Controller of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

C. Waiver of this title may only be made by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the full National Council. ·

D. Any special appropriations or prior obligations approved prior to the enactment of this Amendment shall not be subject to these amendments.

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MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION OFFICE OF PUBLIC GAMING

Creek Council House to feature Jon Mark Tiger Exhibit through Sept.

Media Release
Creek Council House Museum

Creek Council House Museum/Archive
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jon M. Tiger will be the Creek Council House Museum's featured exhibit through Sept.

OKMULGEE — The Creek Council House Museum will feature artist Jon Mark Tiger Exhibit July through Sept., featuring 16 paintings. The museum is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Jon Tiger is full-blood Muscogee (Creek). Tiger was born June 17, 1954 and was raised in rural McIntosh County and attended Eufaula Public Schools and Sequoyah Indian High School. Jon graduated in 1973 from Sequoyah Indian High School, Tahlequah, Okla. He belongs to the "Raccoon" Clan and is of the Eufaula Canadian Tribal Town. Jon began drawing at the early age of five years old, on cardboard covered walls of his grandparent's house. Being mainly self-taught, his maternal grandfather, B.B. Scott, encouraged him to enroll at the Institute of American Indian Arts (I.A.I.A.) in Santa Fe, N.M., in 1971. He continued his studies at the University of Science and Arts in Chickasha, Okla., and Oklahoma State Technical School in Okmulgee, Okla..

As an award-winning artist, Tiger's work varies in size from miniatures to mural. Tiger's mediums include pencil, watercolor, acrylic, oils, and wood burning. He was fortunate to have studied under Allen Houser while at I.A.I.A.

Tiger describes his work as "contemporary with a traditional twist," It was published in the national Native American Child Abuse and Neglect Conference in Tulsa, Okla., and was distributed nationwide on posters and brochures in 1999.

He is included in "The Biographical Directory of Native American Painters" authored by Patrick D. Lester in 1995.

He is the son of Harriette Tiger and the late Yahola Tiger, Sr. of Eufaula, Okla. Jon is a board member of the Eufaula Indian Community and is a cousin to the late Jerome Tiger.

Tiger has given several public school presentations and has exhibited in galleries, banks, gift shops, and art shows. He had numerous pieces in permanent, public, and private collections in the U.S., and several countries.

Tiger was selected as the "Featured Artist" for the 2009 Tulsa Indian Art Festival and the Eufaula Art Walk Oct. 24-25, 2008 at the Bank of Eufaula. Eufaula Mayor Smith proclaimed Nov. 1, 2004, as "Jon Tiger Day."

Five Tribes Story Conference set for Sept. 21-23

Media Release
Oklahoma Humanities Council

MUSKOGEE — The Five Tribes Story Conference will be held Sept. 21-23 at Bacone College located on Old Bacone Road, in Muskogee.

The event is a multi-disciplinary conference designed to merge practice and theory in interpretation of folklore, oral tradition, scholarship and literature of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek) and Seminole tribes.

It is a gathering of scholars and artists (oral storytellers, musicians, painters) engaging the public to discuss humanities, the importance of culture, and emphasizing the role of stories, whether oral, painting or song, in every family and cultural history. Robert J. Conley Ph. D, a member of the United Keetoowah Band of the Cherokees, is the featured author.

There is a registration fee to attend the conference. Evening concerts are free and open to the public. For more information call 918-683-1701.

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"Caring when it counts"

Nixon made tribes control their own futures

Gilcrease Museum panel explores how the U.S. administration was instrumental in the exercise of tribal sovereignty

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

MNN/Gary Fife
LaDonna Harris (Comanche) was part of a panel presentation held this spring at Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa, Okla.

TULSA — Tribes across the nation have been exercising inherent governmental powers since the 1970s. Nowadays, tribal sovereignty and self-determination are considered a part of everyday business.

But, when did tribes start really using their governmental powers and who helped this government-to-government relationship develop?

He is best remembered for political spying during the Watergate scandals of the early 1970s, but U.S. President Richard M. Nixon and his administration played a key part in bringing about the era of Indian Self-Determination.

That's according to panelists in a retrospective forum hosted by the Gilcrease Museum. LaDonna Harris (Comanche) was part of a panel presentation this spring at Gilcrease, May 23, 2012. She spoke at a special forum called, "Native American Self-Determination from the Nixon Presidency to the Present Time." Harris lent her thoughts to the discussions of how Nixon helped bring tribal governments powers to develop their own agendas, instead of having the Bureau of Indian Affairs dictate tribal policies.

Other panelists lending their recollections were Nixon administration members Bobbie Kilberg of the White House Domestic Council staff, and Bradley H. Patterson, Executive Assistant to one of Nixon's Special Consultants. The Gilcrease Museum, the Nixon Foundation and The National Archives hosted the forum.

Harris was Executive Director of Americans for Indian Opportunity and wife of former Oklahoma U.S. Senator Fred Harris.

In the 70s, Harris remembers that Native leaders had the challenge of teaching the White House staff and other officials what federal Indian law meant and how it should be interpreted, "We always had to teach the decision-makers to interpret what the policy is for them, because they had no background in their educational experience to understand it. So, we called it, the 'Indian 101' program for them." People like Kilberg and Patterson took that message to the President, who lent his support to major policy changes and legislation that underlined the rights that tribes already possessed, but had not used to any great extent.

As for the mood of tribes around the Nation during that period, Harris said, they were depressed about social and economic conditions, but the landmark decision returning the Blue Lake to the Taos Pueblo people set a new beginning for tribal self-determination, "There was a sadness at first, depending on what part of the country you were in. South Dakota was very depressing because of the way Indian people were treated there. Nebraska mistreated their (Indian) folks as well. Gallup, New Mexico. There were three different locations where you didn't want to be Indian. But, the tribes themselves overcame those relationships. The Winnebagos got rid of the sheriff that was arresting everyone of them by voting him out of office. So, they got themselves organized and it's changed. It was the encouragement that if the Taos Pueblos got their land back all of us could do better."

Harris credits part of the emergence of the tribal rights program to the 'War On Poverty' programs of U.S. President Lyndon Johnson during the late 1960s. Landmark programs such as the Job Corps and Headstart programs were established then. Indian people all over saw the opportunities, Harris remembers, "People saw that they can make a difference and so they organized themselves. Then the 'urbans' started to organize. AIM (American Indian Movement) came out of the urban Indian centers, and the urban Indian centers began to organize without any help from us, practically. You could see the movement. It was growing and people were thinking for themselves. It was a very rewarding time, you felt positive, people felt real positive about things."

In retrospect, Harris admitted she was a bit surprised that so many positive developments came from President Nixon's administration, but pointed out that Nixon staffers were willing to listen and act on their beliefs, "Yes, I was. But, getting to know his staff and people and working within the White House structure, they were just people and you can convince them or talk to them in the right way, it worked. It became a very wonderful relationship."

She remembers that the Indian self-determination legislation came along, leading to the contracting of services to tribes themselves to perform, replacing paternalistic governmental policies, "Indian housing got organized, the Council of Energy Resource Tribes (CERT), they organized around assets like energy or housing. Then all tribes could belong and help each other make it happen so that they could change the policies in Washington, they could change the policies back home on their own reservation. So, it really did work."

Other panelists, such as Sam Deloria, director of the American Indian Graduate Center called the actions of President Nixon, the "gold standard" of support for Indian self-determination, because no one had ever gone so far in proposing sweeping change in federal Indian affairs, adding that he thought no other administration would be surpassed.

In his presidential papers, Nixon delivered a special message. The new direction of Indian policy which aimed at Indian self-determination was set forth in a special message to Congress in July 1970. Nixon condemned forced termination and proposed recommendations for specific action.

Nixon's message said, in part, "It is long past time that the Indian policies of the federal government began to recognize and build upon the capacities and insights of the Indian people. Both as a matter of justice and as a matter of enlightened social policy, we must begin to act on the basis of what the Indians themselves have long been telling us. The time has come to break decisively with the past and to create the conditions for a new era in which the Indian future is determined by Indian acts and Indian decisions."

"It is long past time that the Indian policies of the federal government began to recognize and build upon the capacities and insights of the Indian people. Both as a matter of justice and as a matter of enlightened social policy, we must begin to act on the basis of what the Indians themselves have long been telling us."

– Richard Nixon, U.S. President

Roberts brings new life to culture, sports

Darren DeLaune
MNN Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA, Miss. — Daniel "Supaktv" Roberts started playing stickball in March 2011. Since that time, Roberts has turned it into a game he absolutely loves.

Native American tribes used stickball as a way to settle inter-tribal disputes without going resorting to war. This is how the sport received its name, "Little Brother of War."

There are different styles of stickball play, according to tribe, including the "Choctaw" and "Mvskoke" or "East and West."

"Choctaw style is played when you go to the different tournaments throughout the season," Roberts said. "With Choctaw style, you can not hit with sticks, you can only use your body. With Mvskoke style, you can only hit with the sticks, and there are no body hits. Both are violent. With Choctaw style, you can get more broken bones, with Mvskoke style, you get more cuts that will open up. Mvskoke style is more for ceremonial grounds and Choctaw is tournament. With both there are a lot of injuries."

Both teams have 30 people on the field at all times," Roberts said. "They consist of shooters, centers, defenders. Centers will control the middle of the field and their job is to get the ball to the shooters. The defenders' job is to protect the goal and to help centers move ball down the field to shooters. The shooters job is to score and get the points. The shooters are the ones that the opponents are trying to hit and trying to stop."

MNN/Darren DeLaune
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Daniel "Supaktv" Roberts and his inter-tribal team recently competed in the "World Series of Stickball" held in Philadelphia, Miss.

Roberts is a shooter on his team.

"As a shooter, you are going to get hit," Roberts said. "And you are going to get hit hard, but it is our job to stay focused and score the points for our team."

Roberts plays for a team called "6town," which he considers an inter-tribal team.

"My team is a lot like me; we are a very young team," Roberts said. "I have been playing for a little bit over a year. My cousin Jake Roberts was the one who got me involved with 6town. We have more than one tribe that represents our team. Our team has members of Creek, Choctaw, Chickasaw, and Cherokee."

Roberts and his team recently returned from the "World Series of Stickball" held annually in Philadelphia, Miss.

"Stickball in Mississippi is a lot like football here on Friday nights," Roberts said. "If you are a stickball player there, you are the top dog. There is no other feeling like it. Walking out into the field and hearing everybody either cheering or booing you and your team, it is crazy. It is an unreal feeling. When you hit that field you are walking into the biggest game in the world," Roberts said.

Although the series didn't turn out the way 6town wanted, they know what the competition is like and will be ready next year.

"We have a few tournaments that are coming up, around here in Oklahoma," Roberts said. Until then, we will practice and continue getting better. We will be ready and prepared for next year."

Roberts is Creek, Choctaw and Aleut. His parents are Danny and Janelle Roberts. His Tribal Town is Nuyaka and his Clan is Hotvle (Wind).

Gourd on fire after track season

Darren DeLaune
MNN Sports Writer

SALLISAW — Andi Gourd is coming off a strong year in cross-country and track at Central High School in Sallisaw, Okla., where she is the only person, at her school to place in a state-level competition in these sports.

The junior came in second place in cross-country this season and took first in the one-mile and two-mile competitions for her track team this season as well. She's also the only member on the cross-country team and the only female in track.

Cross-country courses are open-air courses covering natural terrain. There are hills, rocks, trees and, if it rains, mud. If that is not tough, then try to run the rough course for two miles.

"With cross-country, I will compete against all the other schools regardless of class," Gourd said. "Whatever schools show up that day, whether they are 6-A or class B, I will race against them. I do not race against teams in my class until regionals and state."

Gourd has been state runner-up in cross-country the past two years, so she had one thing on her mind last season in this event.

"I plan on winning this year," Gourd said. "I have been state runner-up and I do not want that anymore. I know what I have to do to win this time. I know what it takes."

She also had a successful track season.

"I'm so happy about this season in track," Gourd said. "In my previous years I did not do too well. It seems to me that track is a lot more competitive. In this season, I was more confident, and added more muscle tone to my body, which helped out."

Photo submitted/Tammy Barbee
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Andi Gourd (pictured in the middle) took first in the one-mile and two-mile competitions for her track team this season.

These events do take a toll on the physical and mental strength of runners.

"I always walk the course for cross-country before every race," Gourd said. "It helps me to know where there could be hazards that can hurt me, or if I can find a place to where I can overtake my opponent. This is where I map out my strategy."

"For track it is a little bit different. What I like to do is run behind a person majority of the race and then overtake them close to the end. It really bugs them because they are worried about me beating them and are not focusing on the race at all."

Her mother Tammy Barbee knows what a competitor her daughter is and is excited for her in her senior year.

"Andi has always loved to run," Barbee said. "It was getting her to stop that was the problem. She is ready for her senior year and with the goals that she has set for herself, she will use this strength to get her ready for the next level."

Her coach, Scott Lowe, had some positive things to say about Gourd on this year's success.

"I am very pleased and very happy with Andi on what she did overall this year," Lowe said. "She is a training beast. She never complains about anything and is more professional about things now. She now understands the science of running and what that takes. She watches what she eats and how certain foods can affect her body. Not a lot of runners will do that, especially the ones in high school. But she wants to run at the next level and knows what it takes to do that."

Gourd would like to attend the University of Arkansas when she goes to college. She would like to become a teacher or major in journalism. She has always loved the track team for the college and hopes to continue her education as well as her running as a Razorback.

Gourd, Creek-Cherokee, is the daughter of Tammy Barbee and Brian Gourd.

CMN receives Tobacco Free Work Site of the Month

Media Release
College of the Muscogee Nation

OKMULGEE — The Substance Abuse Prevention/Treatment Committee through the Okmulgee County Wellness Coalition is working to recognize Okmulgee County work sites who have adopted a tobacco free work site policy for their organization. Each business that has adopted a tobacco free work site policy and strives to promote health and wellness initiatives for their employees will have the opportunity to be selected to receive special recognition from the committee. The purpose of this award is to highlight proactive businesses in Okmulgee County each month that have adopted a tobacco free work site policy for their business, as well as have shown other ways of aiming to improve the health and well-being of their employees. Businesses that are selected will be given an outdoor sign to display in front of their business for the month they are awarded.

The College of the Muscogee Nation is the institution of higher education for the Muscogee Creek Nation emphasizing native culture, values, language and self-determination. The College provides a positive learning environment for tribal and non-tribal students as citizens of a tribal and global society supported by teaching excellence and will offer exemplary academic programs that meet student, tribal, and societal needs. Through instructional quality and visionary leadership, the College of the Muscogee Nation will encourage lifelong learners, for personal growth, professional development, and intellectual advancement.

Tobacco use is prohibited on areas of CMN property, including but not limited to: parking lots, common areas, buildings, and personal vehicles when on College property. The following fines will be assessed for any violations of the CMN tobacco policy.

• Further, the CMN tobacco policy also includes chewing and dipping tobacco products as well as e-cigarettes.

• Spit containers are prohibited in all campus buildings.

• Please note that Student-Residents who throw cigarette butts on the ground or spit chew in public spaces will face disciplinary action for littering.

• Any Student-Resident in violation of the tobacco policy will be subject to the following sanctions:

FIRST OFFENSE: $50 fine and three hours of community service.

SECOND OFFENSE: $100 fine and a three page written paper or appropriate anti-tobacco poster on the effects of smoking.

THIRD OFFENSE: Removal from housing.

The College of the Muscogee Nation has been chosen as the Tobacco Free Work site of the Month recipient for July. The goal is to ensure that all staff and visitors to the college campus are aware of and adhere to the tobacco free policy.

Effective April 6, 2011, the College of the Muscogee Nation became a tobacco-free work site.

The College of the Muscogee Nation provides a great opportunity for Native American, and non-Native American, students to further their education in Police Science, Native American Studies, Gaming, and Tribal Services with hopes of adding more degree programs in the future.

They currently have plans to build a Student Center that will provide students with more on campus options that will include a library, fitness center, grill, and more classrooms.

The Substance Abuse Prevention/Treatment Committee would like to thank the College of the Muscogee Nation for their dedication to improve the health and well-being of their employees, students, and patrons!

Becoming a tobacco free work site is a simple and easy way to make strides towards increasing employee productivity and lowering insurance costs.

If your business already has a tobacco free work site policy and would like to be considered for this award, or you are interested in adopting a tobacco free work site policy, please contact Kristin Story, Tobacco Prevention Specialist, at 918-756-1248.

COLLEGE OF THE MUSCOGEE NATION
TOBACCO FREE WORKSITE OF THE MONTH
Sponsored by the Okmulgee County Wellness Coalition Substance Abuse Prevention Treatment Committee
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TOBACCO FREE WORKSITE OF THE MONTH

OSUIT/Submission
The College of the Muscogee Nation was recently named The Tobacco Free Work site of the month by the Okmulgee Count Wellness Coalition Substance Abuse Prevention Treatment Committee.

MCN Behavioral Health offers community outreach and training

Media Release
MCN Division of Health

SAPULPA — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse program provides a wide variety of training, and community outreach events throughout the year. Community events are designed to offer a unique interactive learning environment, as well as networking opportunities.

Over the years, the program has made efforts to raise awareness about the importance of mental health and promote prevention and acceptance. The program partners with the Division of Health Indian health clinics (Koweta, Sapulpa, Okmulgee, Eufaula and Okemah), offering screenings, brief intervention and referral to treatment. SBIRT is a comprehensive integrated, public health approach to the delivery of early intervention and treatment services for persons with behavioral health concerns, as well as those who are at risk of developing them in the future.

We collaborate with Tulsa System of Care Indian Community Advisory Team and help plan the Restoring Harmony Powwow an annual festival centered on raising of children's mental health issues. Also, we have joined efforts with Oklahoma Systems of Care, Children, Youth and Families Picnic Celebration at the Capitol.

Our 2012 Youth Leadership Summit, "Putting a Face on Mental Health," had five schools attend and over 100 students participate. This year's keynote speaker, Kirk Smalley, addressed a topic dear to his heart, bullying and suicide prevention. The overall event was an exciting turnout for the community.

To bring additional awareness to the community regarding suicide prevention, we have hosted QPR (question, persuade and refer) training at several different locations. The QPR method identifies three steps anyone can use to prevent suicide. Gateway training takes one hour and is taught by certified instructor in a format that is clear, concise and applicable for a wide variety of audiences.

As part of the 19th annual Children's Behavioral Health Conference, "Finding the Me I Was Born To Be," families from the Family Advisory Committee attended the Family/Youth track. The workshops consisted of Native family wellness, building relationships, and defusing the bomb.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Behavioral Health & Substance Abuse program also hosted a Consumer and Family Leadership Academy in July for the Okmulgee and Holdenville communities.

For more information on training and community outreach please contact Lindsley Harry (918) 224-9307 or Suzan Clark (918) 758-1930.

School Clothing applications available through Oct. 26

Media Release
MCN Social Services

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation School Clothing Program 2012/2013, is now accepting applications until Oct. 26, 2012 at 5 p.m.

This program is open to all Muscogee (Creek) citizen students no matter where they live in the United States.

The guidelines of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation School Clothing Program are as follows:

• Only one application per family will be accepted.

• Child must have been previously enrolled as a Muscogee (Creek) citizen before making application. Applicants must submit copies of each child's Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Card or a print out from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Office.

• The student must be at least three years old and enrolled in a certified Head Start (not a day care) or be four years old and enrolled in a public/private school program, pre-K through the 12th grade.

All students Head Start through 12th grade must have a school official complete the School Enrollment Form that will be provided with the application. Home schooled children ages 5-18 are also eligible and must provide accredited curriculum or original receipts of textbooks purchased, and a notarized affidavit (also must be signed by the individual providing the education). The affidavit will be provided with the application.

• The primary custodial parent or legal guardian must complete the application.

Applications may be picked up at the following locations:

- The School Clothing Program office, located behind the Social Services building at 2971 N. Wood Drive, Okmulgee, OK 74447

- Any MCN Child Development Center

- Any MCN Indian Community Center

- An application is available for download at: www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov

• Call 918-549-2473 or toll free at 1-800-482-1979 for an application to be mailed or faxed directly.

All applications must be returned or mailed to: School Clothing Program, P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK. 74447.

Please do not fax or e-mail the applications.

For more information, contact the School Clothing Program at 918-549-2473 or toll free at 1-800-482-1979, ext. 2473.

MCN Social Services Elder AC Program now available

Media Release
MCN Social Services

OKMULGEE — The air conditioner program provides window units for enrolled Creek citizens 60 years of age or older who have no air conditioning or existing air conditioning is inadequate.

Those under 60 years of age who suffer from or are otherwise prone to chronic illness are also eligible to apply. Both renters and homeowners may apply. Citizens are responsible for pick up and installation of air conditioners.

• Applicants must be enrolled Muscogee (Creek) tribal members

• At least one member of the household must be considered as vulnerable:

- Elder (60 years or older)

- Medically needy as determined by a qualified health practitioner

Required Documents

• Air Conditioner application (may be completed at office or downloaded from MCN website)

• Citizenship cards for all household members (CDIB cards not accepted)

• If medically needy, a statement from a medical doctor of medical necessity

• Notarized statement from a non-family member that the applicant's home has no air conditioner or existing air conditioner is inadequate

• Additional documents may be required based on individual circumstances.

For questions or additional information contact Social Services at 918-549-2445 or 1-800-482-1979.

MCN hosts pest management seminar

Mike Salsman
MCN Environmental Service

OKMULGEE — The Inter-Tribal Environmental Council (ITEC), hosted an Integrated Pest Management workshop in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's Housing Conference Room May 1-2. The speaker during both sessions was Janet Hurley, from Texas Agrilife Extension. Four Oklahoma tribes were represented along with MCN's Environmental Services and GSA. A large segment of the workshop focused on schools and food service. Several of the attendees worked in the MCN Senior Nutrition Programs. The two-day event was designed to teach tribal employees how to apply an integrated pest management system.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an environmentally responsible, cost efficient approach to pest control. IPM uses the least hazardous chemicals and techniques, decreasing risks to people, non- target organisms, such as pets, and the environment.

Many pest control methods use toxic chemicals to kill targeted creatures. While effective, not everything treated is a target and these chemicals can be harmful to the environment. Most pesticides come in the form of fumigants and sprays and are designed to treat large areas. IPM uses a more confined and focused approach. IPM identifies and monitors the activity of the pest first, then utilizes sanitation and deep-cleaning, along with sealing all outside openings and keeping clean and dry storage areas. Pests (ants, roaches, rodents, flies, ect.) are just like people in the fact that they need water and food to survive. Removing the food and water, along with closing off the pests' entrance and exit sources, is a key in eliminating them.

Hurley's interactive class allowed attendees to see the benefits of an IPM, while exposing the harmful effects of pesticides. Most pesticides are linked to breathing problems and asthma in humans, and death to some plants and animals, yet can be purchased at the local box store. Using the IPM approach can eliminate the need for pesticides altogether.

Another focus of the IPM workshop was pest identification. Nearly all of the pests discussed in the class were common to this area. From cockroaches, ants, lice and bedbugs, to mice, rats and birds, employees learned to characterize and identify each one and the damage they can do. IPM discussed the proper steps to managing these pests in a safe and permanent way with little environmental impact.

The benefits of utilizing an Integrated Pest Management approach will be seen immediately. Those with a pest problem should seal air vents, doors, windows, cracks around plumbing and wiring, inspect and monitor the areas where pests frequent and eliminate the need for harmful pesticides by using environmentally safe traps (sticky tape, monitoring pads, live traps). Areas should be deep cleaned and free of clutter. Storage areas should be kept cool and dry.

These control tactics will ensure a pest-proof, safe home for family and coworkers. Integrated Pest Management is a practical and economical way to prevent pests, while positively impacting the environment.

MCN Social Services Energy Assistance Program now available

Media Release
MCN Social Services

OKMULGEE — Applications for the MCN Energy Assistance Program are now being processed. Applicants should submit a copy of the following documents required to determine eligibility:

LIHEAP Participants

• Current electric bill (must be in applicant and/or spouse's name)

• Citizenship card(s) or CDIB card(s) for all household members; if non-native, include driver's license or birth certificate

• Social Security card(s) for all household members

• Income or lack of income for all household members 18 years or older (check stub, unemployment benefits verification, and food stamp or commodities verification will be accepted)

•Written statement stating: I, __, authorize Creek Nation Social Services to sign my application on my behalf. I have not received assistance for my cooling bill from any other agency, community center, etc., within the past 12 months. Applicant must sign, date, and leave a phone number.

Tribal Energy Participants

• Current electric bill (must be in applicant and/or spouse's name)

• Citizenship card(s) for all household members; if non-native, include driver's license or birth certificate

• Social Security card(s) for all household members

• Written statement stating: I, __, authorize Creek Nation Social Services to sign my application on my behalf. Applicant must sign, date, and leave a phone number.

Once the applicant has received an approval letter, he/she will need to bring the approval letter to the office on any Friday in July to pick up their educational material bag.

For questions or additional information contact Social Services at 918-549-2445 or 1-800-482-1979.

Change a life.
Become a Foster/Adoptive Parent
GREAT SEAL OF THE MUSCOGEE NATION I.T.
Children. Keepers of our tradition.
NICWA
National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting our children • Preserving our culture
Preserve our heritage, become a foster/adoption parent today.
In the State of Oklahoma, there are Muscogee Creek Children in state and tribal custody looking for a place to call "cuko" (home).
Become a Foster/Adoptive tribal home.
For more information contact: Tammi Reed-Barnett
at (918)732-7883 OR email: tammirb@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Person and Estate of: D.L.C.	)	**Case No. GD-2012-09**
Minor Child.	)	

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: **Kenneth Maurice Mathews**

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. GD-2012-09, styled In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Person and Estate of D.L.C., Minor Child, *Petition for Appointment of Guardian of Minor Child.* The action alleges that the Petitioners are entitled to an order appointing guardianship of the minor child.

You are notified that you must appear at the hearing on the 14th day of August, 2012 at 1:30 p.m. Failure to attend will result in the allegations contained in the *Petition* being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of Petitioners.

Given under my hand and seal this 19 day of July, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
By: ShaVon McClenathan
(Deputy)

(SEAL)

Approved:
Kurt K. Townsend, MCN#642
Shannon L. Prescott, MCN#165
Courtney L. Eagan-Smith, MCN#543
Gregory N. Hope, MCN#641
MCN Citizen Legal Services
114 N. Grand Ave, North Lobby
Okmulgee, OK 74447
(918) 756-1112
(918) 756-1113 facsimile
Attorneys for Petitioners

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Persons and Estate of : M.P., R.G. and A.A.H.,	)	**Case No. GD-2012-11** **Judge Gregory Bigler**
Minor Children.	)	

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

To: Armondo Alexander Herrera, Sr., and Abel Garcia

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for guardianship of the Minor Children in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, GD 2012-11, styled In re the Guardianship of M.P, R.G. and A.A.H., minor children. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to guardianship over the minor children based on abandonment.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner and appear at the hearing scheduled for the 23rd day of August, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Mound Building, Hwy 75 and 56 Loop, Okmulgee, OK or the allegations contained in the *Petition* will be taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in her *Petition.*

Given under my hand and seal this 19 day of July, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court,
Okmulgee District
By: Debbie King
(Deputy)

Approved:
Shannon L. Prescott, MCN#165
Kurt K. Townsend, MCN#642
Courtney L. Eagan-Smith, MCN#543
Gregory N. Hope, MCN#641
MCN Citizen Legal Services
114 North Grand, North Lobby
Okmulgee, OK 74447
(918) 756-1112
(918) 756-1113 facsimile
Attorneys for the Petitioner

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In re the Name Change of B. L. H. and K. C. H.	)	**Case Number: CV-2012-**99

NOTICE OF FILING PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION TO: Whom it may concern

The Petitioners, Matthew Ellis and Valerie Richelle Hotop, have filed a *Petition for Change of Name* in the above Court to have their minor children's last name changed to reflect the father's name, the same will be heard in the courtroom before the Honorable Judge in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District Courthouse, in Okmulgee, Oklahoma, on the 23 day of August, 2012 at 1 o'clock P .m, or as soon thereafter as counsel can be heard. Any person may file a written protest in this case prior to the date set for the hearing.

Given under my hand a seal this 29 day of June, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
By: ShaVon McClenathan
Deputy Court Clerk

APPROVED FOR ISSUANCE:
Courtney L. Eagan-Smith, MCN#543
Shannon L. Prescott, MCN#165
Kurt K. Townsend, MCN#642
Gregory N. Hope, MCN#641
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Legal Services
114 N. Grand, North Lobby
Okmulgee, OK 74447
(918) 756-1112 Telephone
(918) 756-1113 Facsimile
Attorneys for Petitioners

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRIC
FIL
2012 JUL 5
MUSCOGEE (C
DONNA
COURT

IN THE MATTER OF: T.B., DOB: 07-23-97 B.B., DOB: 09-19-05 Alleged Deprived Children.	)	**Case No. JV-2011-03**

NOTICE OF HEARING TO:

Reginald Benson, Natural Father of T.B.

YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that a Petition to Terminate Parental Rights has been filed against you in the above-styled and numbered cause and will be heard in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the 9th **day of** October 2012 at 1 :00P **.M.**

YOU ARE HEREBY INFORMED that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the child remains a ward of the Court and custody be continued in the Children and Family Services Administration for continued foster placement of possible pre-adoptive placement. **YOU ARE FUTHER INFORMED** that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.

JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In re the marriage of HARPER, SAMUEL EDWARD HARPER, Petitioner, vs. DEANNA LYNN HARPER, Respondent.	)	**Case No. DV 2012-42**

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Deanna Lynn Harper

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for paternity in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. DV-2012-42, styled In re the Marriage of Harper, Samuel Edward Harper, Petitioner and Deanna Lynn Harper, Respondent. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to a *Petition for Dissolution of Marriage* from you.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear at the hearing on the 23rd day of August 2012. at 1:00 o'clock p.m. Failure to respond and/or attend will result in the allegations contained in the *Petition* being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in his *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 5th day of July, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District

By: ShaVon McClenathan
(Deputy)

(SEAL)

Community Calendar August 2012

MCN Reintegration Program seeks feedback on "Project to Overcome"

HENRYETTA — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program works with incarcerated offenders and those recently released from prison to provide an easier and more productive reentry into the community.

The program is seeking input from the citizens in the communities to determine if safer and healthier environments can be accomplished. The following are the dates and times program representatives will be in local communities

• Aug. 7 at 7 p.m., Oklahoma City Indian Community

• Aug. 13 at 7 p.m., Okmulgee Indian Community

- Duck Creek, Twin Hills, Wilson, Dewar and Morris

• Aug. 14 at 7:45 p.m., Glenpool Indian Community

- Koweta, Tulsa, Sapulpa, Kellyville and Bristow

For more information, contact MCN Reintegration Program Project Coordinator Amber Nelson at 918-652-2676, ext. 110.

MCN Head Start centers now accepting applications

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Head Start centers in Ryal and Wainwright are now accepting applications for the 2012-2013 school year. Ryal Public Schools will be providing iPads for the students and both schools will have an after school program.

Requirements for all programs include: parents income verification, (last year's income tax, pay stubs, W-2 form, TANF letter, SSI Letter, or statement from employer), child's immunization record, child's medical card, child's CDIB (if applicable) child's birth certificate, child's social security card.

For more information, contact the MCN Head Start office at 918-758-7898 or 918-732-7899.

OIC to hold candidate forum Aug. 13

OKMULGEE — The Okmulgee Indian Community will host a candidate forum Monday, Aug. 13 during the general meeting.

The election of the Board of Directors is set for Saturday, Sept. 1.

A special meeting will be held the first week in September to elect the Board of Directors.

Berryhill and Randall Family Reunion set for Aug. 25

HENRYETTA — The Berryhill and Randall Family Reunion is set for Saturday, Aug. 25 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., at the Wilson Indian Community Center in Henryetta.

For more information, please call 918-355-1442 or 918-304-4002.

Montesoma Baptist 125th anniversary set for Sept. 22

OKEMAH — Montesoma Indian Baptist Church will host its 125th Anniversary Celebration, Sept. 22-23 beginning at 5 p.m., Saturday. Festivities will continue with a special service later that evening at 7 p.m., and Sunday at 6 a.m., and a speaker at 11 a.m.

All are welcome to attend. For more information call 918-623-1811 or 918-623-9522.

Tiger Mountain Camp Ground Revival set for Aug. 20-25

HENRYETTA — Tiger Mountain Camp Grounds is hosting an all believers revival" entitled "Fire in the Camp."

The event will feature a variety of musical guests and speakers and will run from Aug. 20-25. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

RV hookups and lodging will be available. For more information call Norman Daniel at 918-441-8779, Robert Lay Jr. at 918-652-5340 or Fred Lowe at 918-843-2255.

Marshall family reunion set for Sept. 3

WETUMKA — The Lewis and Mandy Marshall Family Reunion will be held Monday, Sept. 3, at the Wetumka Indian Baptist Church in Wetumka from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

A pot-luck meal will be served and attendees are encouraged to contribute. There will be door prizes for adults and prizes for childrens' games.

For more information, contact Pauline Levi at 405-737-0174 or Rosalee Marshall at 405-683-2101.

Glenpool Indian Community Bazaar set for Sept. 8

GLENPOOL — The Glenpool Indian Community will host a fund-raising bazaar Sept. 8 at the GIC Community Building from 7 a.m. - noon and from 7-9 p.m.

The event is open to the public and will feature items for barter, sale or trade including flea market, garden and Native American arts and crafts.

Limited booth space is available and is first come, first served.

For more information, contact GIC Treasurer Eleanor Irene Van-Buskirk at 918-946-0077.

Save the Date
Sixth Annual
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Citizens' Diabetes Awareness Summit
KERRETV MOMEN YEKCETV
© Jon Tiger '07
TO KNOW AND TO BE STRONG
Although this event is primarily for MCN citizens, their spouses or significant support persons and other American Indians living in MCN communities are also welcome.
For information contact: Irene Culley (918) 636-8735 or Duane Meadows (918) 695-1325
August 28, 2012
Okemah First Baptist Church
120 S. 6th
Okemah, Ok 74859
GREAT SEAL OF THE MUSCOGEE NATION I.T.
MUSCOGEE NATION
DIVISION OF HEALTH
ESTABLISHED 1970
Summit is Free

Emvponayv

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — A Kiowa friend of mine has weighed in on the case of the Massachusetts woman who claimed 1/32nd Cherokee on her Harvard University paperwork. Elizabeth Warren, a Congressional candidate, listed herself as 'Native American,' but never attended any Native functions at the university, nor in the Boston community. Several organizations have been coming up with documents that may suggest that Warren is faking any allegiance to Native culture and connection. A group of Cherokee women travelled to Massachusetts to get the story straight from the horse's mouth, (or the other end of the horse, perhaps). Nothin' doin' from Warren.

Margo (KickingBird) DeLaune, a Harvard grad, wrote a letter against the false claim of Warren's Cherokee ancestry. DeLaune's academic prose and arguments made me envious of her ability to put words on paper. Her writing against Warren produced this phrase, "… directly facilitates a corruption of equal opportunity philosophy and then disingenuously dismisses valid concerns about her behavior as attacks against her family, she demeans the bravery of our Native forebears who fought so valiantly to resist assimilation and to preserve our various ways of life…."

Wow! I wish could write like that!

DeLaune challenges the democrats up there to take a stand against falsehoods like this.

Me, too. After all, Warren would be 31/32nd something else, right?

Federal Emergency Management officials discussed support for legislative change to allow tribal governments to directly apply for Federal Disaster Aid. If passed, that means tribal governments would be able to go directly to the president or FEMA, instead of asking state governments for permission, or to be included in a state disaster aid plan. Currently, only states and their governors can make such requests.

If passed, an amendment to the Stafford Act would acknowledge the right of federally recognized tribes to ask for direct assistance in a major disaster scenario, enhance FEMA's working relationship with tribal governments and improve emergency and disaster responsiveness throughout Indian Country.

It's off again. No Indian museum in Oklahoma City.

The Senate killed the $40 million bond issue to complete the American Indian Cultural Center and Museum by a SINGLE VOTE. The bond issue needed 25 votes to pass. Senators whooped and hollered as the vote tally froze at 24-22. Who are the wild savages now?

Construction on the half-built American Indian Cultural Center will be suspended at July's end, as state funding for the project dries up.

Matching funds that were promised would never be available without state support. The project had three previous state bond issues totaling $63 million, as well as $14.5 million in federal funding and $4.9 million and 250 acres of land from Oklahoma City. The museum is left half-built.

Opponents of the measure argued that the project has been ill-managed. An audit was supposed to find out where the state money went but no report has yet to surface. The Museum is a wonderful idea, but I'd kind of like to find out where all those bucks went, too.

Plans are to spend $52,000 month to protect the site. For that kind of cash, it makes me think I could be in the wrong business. But, I did take my journalists vow of poverty.

Have you recovered from the 2012 Creek Festival? Thousands of Creeks and our neighbors attended the event and had a wonderful time. There was a little something for everybody looking for fun, food, sports, arts and crafts, rodeo and entertainment. My favorite was The Temptations! I must admit I was around when most of their songs were new. Hearing these guys perform their music was a real treat. "I guess you say…what can make me feel that way—My Girl!" — The Temptations 'national anthem' they called it.

One of the highlights was the arrival of the Ocmulgee to Okmulgee Bike Tour. Way to go, guys! Andrew Lowe is to be applauded. Word has it that he had medical problems that stopped him before he got to the Festival, but he would not let that keep him from completing that journey. There's a role model for you.

I saw that the food stands all had long lines waiting for tacos, salt meat and frybread. I was hoping that one of them served the famous ten foot taco, but no luck.

Well, as the hottest part of summer prepares to hit us, remember what Will Rogers said:

"Never kick a cow chip on a hot day."

And Still the Waters Run: *The storytellers*

George Windes
CMCA Historian

YORBA LINDA, Calif., — Her eyes would twinkle and her voice was expressive, with well-timed pauses and whispers and fast paced excitement. My maternal grandmother would weave stories for us grandkids, mostly on the spur of the moment, in answer to questions about "what she remembered and who our ancestors were." I don't think she knew that she was, in fact, a "storyteller," but what she was doing was creating memories with a beautiful panorama of gentle Muscogee (Creeks) and Indian Territory outlaws. The kids listened when grandma talked, though sleep sometimes interrupted, since she would talk all-night if she hadn't seen them for a while. She had a remarkable recollection of family events, names and places and wasn't hesitant to share.

My paternal grandfather was a storyteller too, but his stories were different. He was more monotone in delivery. His stories were much shorter, presented mainly as he sat in an old rocker or leaned a chair against a wall of the screened front porch of the tiny frame house they rented for 40 years in the intense heat of Taft, a rough, tough oil boom town 38 miles west of Bakersfield, Calif.

"Dad" didn't have granny's knack for drama, so his stories were more about the jobs he had held to support his large family, of hard times and good times, with a dose of politics and wars mixed in. He read the Los Angeles Times religiously. It was "number one" in his mind. Occasionally, he pointed to relics in the old house from his past. His pipe was never far, his treasured pocketknife always whittling something out of wood.

Have I conjured up memories of your grandparents? Well, grandpa was Muscogee Creek (an original enrollee, as were his mother and eight siblings). Granny however, was part Cherokee (through two of her four grandparents). It is important to know though, from the age of eight she was raised by a beloved Creek stepmother, after the death of her own mother from German Measles. In fact, she married an older brother of her stepmother (ages 32 and 17 respectfully). Granny's half-siblings were grandpa's nephews and nieces. The old fashioned photograph with this column is believed to document their marriage in 1907. They married in a small ceremony in her father's parlor, near Checotah, Okla.

Tragedies struck the young married couple early on. First, the sudden death of their firstborn son, one-year-old Alexander, then the shooting of granny's dad, Sam Baker, on the main street of Checotah in 1911. Sam was probably Checotah's most famed resident (until country music singer, Carrie Underwood, in recent years).

Photos courtesy/*George Windes*
Roy and Dona Freeman were married in Checotah in 1907. He was Muscogee (Creek) and she was part Cherokee. Pictured below is an old cigar band from Roy's favorite brand.

The economy was terrible in those years and the family left seeking a new life in California in 1914 (they missed Checotah something fierce, and returned home until 1927). Heading back to Kern County, Calif., they stayed then, but granny always had to visit her kin every year, to see all the Bakers, Freemans, friends and to place flowers on 21 family graves at the old Indian Territory cemetery at Checotah.

There are a great many stories I'd love to tell about my special grandparents. I could go on about granny for a month of Sundays (perchance I inherited her story-telling abilities). I will share just one. Granny told my brother that Merle Haggard (country music legend) was born in Checotah. Later my brother learned Merle was born in a converted railroad car near Bakersfield, Calif.

He asked granny about it. She looked at him and said, "Well, he may have been born in Bakersfield, but but he was started in Checotah."

Here are a few "punch lines." See if you can conjure up the missing stories:

"Lady, we are not a taxi, we are the city police. We can't take your money."

"Dona, that little hotel is not a very nice place. You know Roy, I thought those young ladies must be wealthy, lying around all morning."

Note found on the table, "Roy, the _____ family stopped by on their way out to Oklahoma and had an extra seat, so I just grabbed the suitcase I always keep packed. There are lots of canned goods in the pantry. I will see you in a couple of weeks. Love, Dona."

"I came to visit my husband Roy Freeman who is lumbering in these parts, but he apparently didn't get my postcard. I'm here at the train station with three little girls and 25 cents in my purse and don't know a soul in Fort Smith. Are you related to the _____ family of Checotah?" (They stayed three full days with strangers till grandpa came and found them).

To a suitor who asked Roy for his daughter's hand, "Don't ask me, ask Dona."

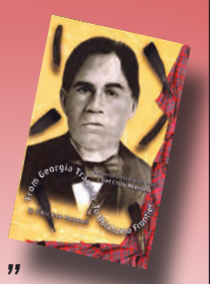
I am flooded with memories in remembering Roy and Dona Baker Freeman. The storytelling they shared and their own lives have become stories as well, with smiles and laughs and a tear or two. How I would love to hear, "WOO'EEEE" from granny again (or sit down to her sliced fried potatoes and onions cooked in lard). I attended the 50th wedding anniversary for a paternal relative in Taft years ago. A lady asked to speak with me. She said, "I've been told the Freemans were your grandparents. They were the finest old people I ever knew. We lived in a little house on their alley. I grew up in their kitchen, always full of good food, conversation and minor medical attention. They were everyone's grandparents!"

A couple of years ago I got certified by the United Methodist Church locally in Native storytelling. I love sharing stories about coyote, turtle, owl, spider woman, etc., with school kids. But mostly I love sharing stories about my own genetic DNA, the Muscogee (Creeks) of Checotah/California. I titled this column "Storytelling" but find it mostly mentions grandparents. Isn't that appropriate? Mvto.

Windes has been an active member of the California Muscogee Creek Association for over a decade and is serving on the Board as historian. He may be reached at: georgewindes@gmail.com

From Georgia Tragedy to Oklahoma Frontier
A Biography of Scots Creek Indian Chief Chilly McIntosh
by Muscogee (Creek) author Billie Jane McIntosh

- Chilly McIntosh Family
- Photos, maps and documents
- Muscogee Creek tribal history 1800-1875
  - Alabama
  - Georgia
  - Indian Territory



"Best overview and description of the murder of William McIntosh, Jr."
-Dr. Gary L. McIntosh, Calif.

To purchase through American History Press call 888-521-1789 or for a signed copy, include $19 plus $3 postage to: Billie Jane McIntosh, 2315 W. Trail Blazer Dr., Cottonwood, AZ 86326 or call 928-649-9797.

Ocmulgee Tour explores Creek history of Horseshoe Bend

MNN/Sterling Cosper

The Battle of Horseshoe Bend is documented through photos by *Muscogee Nation News* Reporter Sterling Cosper as part of the history series from Mvskoke Media via the 'Ocmulgee to Okmulgee Bike Tour.'

Sterling Cosper with contribution from John Beaver
MNN Reporter / MCN Museum Director

DAVISTON, Ala. — 1) The Ocmulgee to Okmulgee Trail of Tears Bicycle Tour began in Macon, Ga., and wound its way through Georgia and Alabama, the Muscogee (Creek) homelands. One of the last stops the tour made during the journey west out of Alabama was at Horseshoe Bend National Park June 11.

Park Ranger Ove Jensen (left) and Park Superintendent Doyle Sapp (right), gave an oral account of the Battle of Horseshoe Bend to participants of the Ocmulgee Tour. This was the deciding battle of the Creek (Red Stick) War (1813–1814).

2) The Battle of Horseshoe Bend took place March 27, 1814 at a horseshoe-shaped bend in the Tallapoosa River in central Alabama. During the battle, the Creek Red Sticks, led in-part by Chief Menawa, had approximately 1,000 warriors compared to U.S. Gen. Andrew Jackson's force of 3,300 soldiers and militia members. It's estimated that only one in three Red Stick Warriors had muskets.

3) The Red Sticks set up a wall, close to where these white posts (pictured) are today, to block off the only land access to their stronghold. The Red Sticks were guarded on all other sides by the bend in the Tallapoosa River. Jackson and his army were forced to charge this wall after attempting to destroy it for two hours with cannon fire.

4) Jackson's forces consisted of the Thirty-Ninth U.S. Infantry, members of the East and West Tennessee Militia and allied Cherokee and Lower Creek warriors. While Jackson commanded the troops to set up at the neck of the bend where the Red Stick's wall was located, he ordered Gen. John Coffee to take a group of mounted riflemen and the allied Cherokee and Lower Creek warriors to surround and guard the other side of the river near the toe of the bend.

5) The temporary town of Tohopeka (set up within the trees pictured here in the background) was strategically set up inside the bend of the Tallapoosa River at the toe. This was the home base of the allied Red Stick Warriors from the Upper Creek towns. The women and children stayed here during the battle with the hope that they would be guarded from the main assault.

6) Eventually, many of the remaining foot soldiers in Coffee's outfit would follow the Cherokee and cross the river. Jackson realized that his forces were successful in crossing the river after hearing the gunshots fired by the foot soldiers attacking Tohopeka and decided to storm the wall.

7) The main Red Stick forces were eventually overcome at the wall and fell back near Tohopeka where they were defeated by the attack on all sides. Coffee's mounted riflemen, who were waiting for the attempted escapees on the other side, gunned down many Red Sticks trying to escape across the river. The allied Cherokee and Lower Creek took many women and children captive from Tohopeka. Menawa was shot seven times but managed to escape and remained a prominent leader in Creek society.

8) Chief Red Eagle (William Weatherford), who was not present during this battle, surrendered to Jackson at Fort Jackson established at the former location of Fort Toulouse near Wetumpka, Ala. Jackson forced leaders from his allies from the Lower Creek towns and his enemies from the Upper Creek towns to sign the Treaty of Fort Jackson Aug. 9, 1814, resulting in a land cession of 23 million acres in central Alabama and southern Georgia.

9) Menawa would later lead a party to execute Chief William McIntosh of the Lower Creeks for signing a treaty, which sold all remaining land in Georgia to the United States, per a National Council resolution. McIntosh also led Jackson's Indian troops during the Battle of Horseshoe Bend.

10) Menawa was granted exclusion from the relocation but was later ordered by a local judge to join his people in the new Indian Territory.

Before beginning his journey west he made this statement:

"Last evening I saw the sun set for the last time and its light shine on the treetops and the land and the water, that I am never to look upon again."

Menawa died in an unknown location during his forced journey to new Indian Territory.

Shock

Continued from Page 1

Breanna Wood from Shawnee, liked the chance to meet star players, "My mom told me about it. Courtney Paris is what attracted me the most, so we decided to come out here." Wood plays for Shawnee High School.

Marie Harjo plays for Holdenville and aims to be a better ball handler, too, she said. At the clinic she learned "How to dribble the right way and all that." She admitted that she would like to play for the Tulsa Shock someday.

Crawford put the participants through several drills including ball handling skills, reaction times, free throw shooting and fitness exercises.

Following the clinic, spectators watched the Tulsa Shock in a full-speed traveling practice and had an autograph signing/photograph session with the players.

MNN/Gary Fife

Tulsa Shock's "Volt" poses with Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger (middle) and Public Relations Representative Edwin Marshall at the "Dribble to Stop Diabetes."

Summit

Continued from Page 1

Nationally recognized speakers include Dr. Darryl Tonemah, a member of the Kiowa/Comanche/Tuscarora tribes, has worked in the field of health and wellness for over 20 years. He has given workshops and keynotes across the United States, Canada and Mexico. He has recently been named to the Board of Directors for the American Diabetes Association. He is a partner in the Native Health Group (NHG) with primary goal of decreasing health disparities among the Native American population and increase access to care.

Lisa Pivec is the director of Community Health Promotion for Cherokee Nation Health Services. She holds a master's degree from NSU in college teaching with an emphasis in health and has been with the Cherokee Nation since 1991. She currently is the principal investigator for several funding agreements with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

She directs the Healthy Nation program, including the Male Seminary Recreation Center and serves as lead staff on the recently funded National Public Health Improvement Initiative from Centers for Disease Control. Lisa is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation and is originally from the Peavine community in Adair County. She hopes to continue working with and for Cherokee people throughout her career.

For more information, please contact Duane Meadows, at (918) 695-1325 or Irene Culley at (918) 636-8735.

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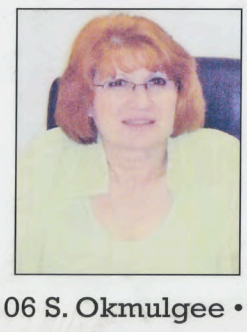
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Business - Smith reopens historic theater

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Muscogee Nation News

Official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and a production of Mvskoke Media

Executive order declares state of emergency in MCN

Administration issues burn ban throughout MCN jurisdictional boundaries; provides cooling stations

Media Release
MCN Public Relations

OKMULGEE — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger declared a "State of Emergency" throughout all areas within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

In an executive order released Aug. 2, he stated, "Due to the extreme heat, drought and fire conditions existing in the boundaries of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, I hereby declare a state of emergency for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation."

The MCN Emergency Response Team activated the "Emergency Operations Plan," which committed all departments and employees to provide necessary and expedient services to vulnerable citizens (with an emphasis on households with elders and small children) in order to protect lives.

The executive branch also issued a proclamation banning outdoor burning due to the extreme heat and drought conditions.

MNN/Gerald Wofford
The Muscogee (Creek) Nation issued a burn ban across the jurisdictional boundaries Aug. 2 in an executive order from Principal Chief George Tiger.

The ban included open outdoor burning of debris, trash, grass and or building construction materials, the discarding of matches, ashes or burning material and fireworks. The ban also prohibited recreational, camp and bonfires, with the exception of those used for Muscogee ceremonial or religious purposes.

MCN community center facilities and tribal offices in the outlying regions of the eight-county jurisdiction will also be made available as a cooling station for any person desiring respite from the heat.

Tribal police and community health representatives (CHRs) will also conduct welfare checks on those individuals known to be in a vulnerable situation. "Protection of our elders is a top priority," Tiger said.

In addition, MCN Social Services and Housing Division is offering window air conditioner units to those with no other means of cooling where possible.

Any Muscogee (Creek) citizen with cooling needs may call the tribe's main number at (800) 482-1979 and will be referred to the Division of Community Services. After hours, all calls will be forwarded to the Lighthorse Police for further disposition.

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"Hiyo Rakko"
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MCN Emergency Response Team responds to Mannford fires

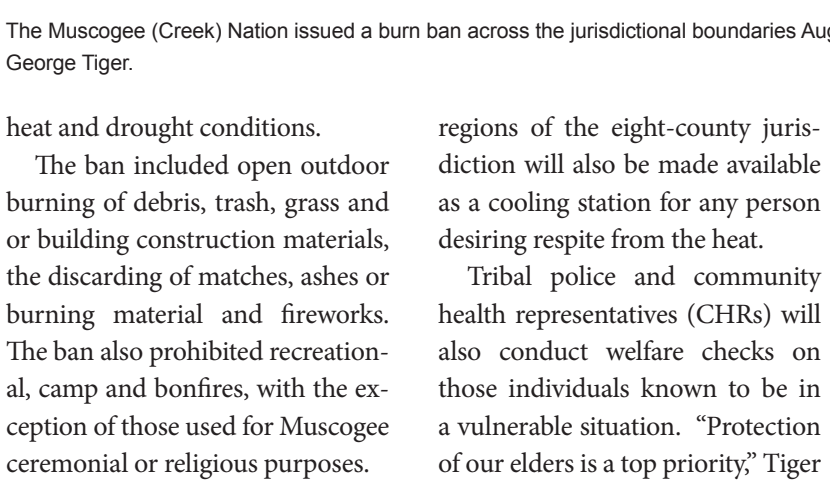
Media Release
MCN Public Relations

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation responded to the grass fires and fire-related issues in Creek County Aug. 4.

The MCN is currently assisting the Mannford area in relief efforts. The use of a generator to provide electricity to the Freedom Hills Baptist Church has been made and non-perishable items, water and school supplies for citizens affected in that area will also be donated to those in need.

Freedom Hills Church was set up as a holding place for residents to cool off, eat and stay until each situation was helped.

MCN Emergency Response Team Director James Nichols said two semi-truck loads of Gatorade were delivered and will be donated to over 60 volunteer fire departments working in Creek Nation territory.



MNN/Christina Good Voice
The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Emergency Management Team distributed thousands of donated bottles of Gatorade to local fire stations as part of relief efforts from the Mannford fires.

"It's important that we keep our fellow firefighters hydrated," Nichols said. "This is our way of helping us all stay healthy in a time of need and when resources are low."

In the wake of the Aug. 2 fire, the tribe's Emergency Management Team, Lighthorse Tribal Police and other tribal entities assisted with traffic control in Drumright, Okla., and established a command post as a central area for information.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation opened two of its tribal community centers Aug. 4 to all in need, as cooling stations and resource referral. The Tulsa Creek Indian Community and Sapulpa Creek Indian Community centers both opened their doors to all, offering drinks, air conditioning and lounge areas for people.

A dozen "cooling stations" were established to assist all citizens affected who might need to escape from the heat and to help with their immediate needs (see page 4 for a full list of cooling stations).

See Response - 5

Community and Human Services Program Fair set for Aug. 25

Media Release
MCN Community Services

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation will host a Community & Human Services Program Fair Saturday, Aug. 25 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the MCN Mound Building.

All Community and Human Services programs will set up informational booths in the lobby where all managers and staff will be available for a meet and greet time and will be available to answer any questions.

All Muscogee (Creek) citizens, community board members and community members are encouraged to attend this free event.

Breakfast and lunch will be provided for all attendees. Door prizes will also be distributed. Participants do not have to be present to win but questionnaires must be submitted in order to be entered into drawings. Up for grabs are an iPad, iPod and Wal-Mart gift cards.

For more information, please call 1-800-482-1979.

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Muscogee Nation News Staff

Manager
Christina Good Voice

Editor
Rebecca Landsberry

Editorial Assistant
Gary Fife

Reporter
Sterling Cosper

Sports Writer
Darren DeLaune

Feature Writer
Gerald Wofford

Circulation
Wilma Lewis

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To submit a change of address or a letter to the editor, call (918) 732-7720 or send e-mail to: wlewis@mcn-nsn.gov

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Donation to Okmulgee Schools defeated at Quarterly Session

A donation to help the struggling Okmulgee school system was defeated at a Quarterly Session of the National Council

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE — A National Council Amendment authorizing a donation of $90,000 to the Okmulgee Public School District failed 4-11 at a Quarterly Session of the National Council July 28.

Okmulgee Public Schools District Superintendent Tod Williams addressed the council during the session in support of NCA 12-116, citing state funding cuts as the need for this donation.

According to Williams, the amount requested was equal to two art teachers' salaries being considered for elimination in order to balance the OPS's budget.

Williams explained that 85 percent of the school system's budget is made up of payroll. Salaries for these two or three positions could not be covered by money from the recently passed bond issue since it is earmarked to fund structural improvements to school property.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger explained to the council that he offered assistance and the school board did not initially approach the tribe for funding.

"This is where our people decided to place our capitol complex, this is our capitol city. This would be an unprecedented move by the Creek Nation. We should place education as a high priority," Tiger said.

Rep. Keeper Johnson asked about the money the MCN paid to the city of Okmulgee to purchase the Creek Council House and why those funds couldn't be used to help the OPS instead of this proposed donation from the MCN.

"I think it's poor planning on their part," Johnson said.

Williams explained that the money from the council house is city funds and that their funding comes from the state of Oklahoma.

Another concern raised about this donation was whether or not other schools would ask the MCN for assistance. Williams reiterated Tiger's argument about Okmulgee being the nation's capitol city.

"This is the largest school in the county, and the most hard hit," Williams said.

Tiger stated that many tribal members attend Okmulgee schools and that many of them would be "short changed" if the nation did not offer assistance.

Johnson reminded those in attendance that the council has directly denied Creek citizens educational funding in the past.

When asked whether this would be a one-time donation, Williams stated that he was hoping for at least a five-year commitment.

Williams said Okmulgee Public Schools would include Muscogee (Creek) culture in the art program with the funding and hoped the MCN would offer a longer commitment in exchange for this curriculum.

Several representatives asked about accountability of these funds and whether or not there would be a contract to make sure the cultural curriculum was implemented after a donation was provided.

MNN/Rebecca Landsberry
Okmulgee Public Schools District Superintendent Tod Williams addressed the MCN National Council in support of NCA 12-116, which proposed a donation of $90,000 to OPS.

Tiger stated that a contract could be drawn up.

Rep. Pearl Thomas sponsored the amendment. Reps. Shirlene Ade, David Nichols, Lena Wind and Thomas voted in favor.

During his quarterly report at the beginning of the session, Tiger presented Stephen 'Wotko' Long with the first Principal Chief's Medal of Valor for rescuing a motorist post-accident from a burning vehicle July 5 on Oklahoma Highway 16. Tiger also issued the first Principal Chief's Medal of Honor to John Beaver, Justin Giles and Andrew Raymond Lowe for their participation and facilitation of the Ocmulgee to Okmulgee Trail of Tears Bicycle Tour.

Other items on the agenda included the following:

• TR 12-093 authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the MCN and Okmulgee County for improvements to the Gun Club Road East Project. Rep. Darrell Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 12-094 authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the MCN and McIntosh County for improvements to the Baptist Assembly Grounds Road Project. Reps. Wind and Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 12-095 authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a contract with Branstetter Building Company, LLC for the construction of an expansion to the MCN's Federal Roads Shop. Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 12-096 authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the MCN and Okfuskee County for improvements to the Old Highway 62 Road Project. Reps. Franklin Coachman, Proctor and Wind sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 12-097 authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a pharmacy network agreement with Optumrx Inc. to provide covered prescription services to members at the MCN Division of Health. Rep. Johnnie Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 12-098 authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a business associate agreement and Oklahoma State immunization information system facility authorization with the State of Oklahoma Department of Health. Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0. Rep. Thomas Yahola was out of the room at the time of the vote.

• TR 12-099 amending TR-049 a tribal resolution of the MCN to define and authorize an oversight committee for Phase II of the River Spirit Casino Project to include the construction of a hotel. Rep. David Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-2, with Johnson and Nichols voting against it.

• TR 12-100 authorizing the Gaming Operations Authority Board to execute an agreement with GSE Construction for the construction of an administration building at One Fire Casino. Reps. Robert Hufft, Mark Randolph and Nichols sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-1. Rep. Kara Medina voted against it.

• TR 12-101 recognizing tribal citizens John Beaver, Justin Giles and Andrew Raymond Lowe for the organization and creation of the Ocmulgee to Okmulgee Bicycle Tour. Speaker Sam Alexander sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 12-103 authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a commercial surety application and indemnity agreement with Liberty Mutual Insurance Company. Rep. Adam Jones and Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 12-122 authorizing a special appropriation of $2,150 to the Sapulpa Indian Community. Reps. Pete Beaver and Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 12-127 authorizing a special appropriation of $800 to financially assist a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Johnson sponsored the resolution, which failed 2-13. Coachman and Johnson voted in favor of the amendment.

• NCA 12-128 amending Muscogee (Creek) Nation Code Annotated (MCNCA) Title 26, entitled "Judicial Branch/Courts." Speaker Alexander sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

This amendment allows for any tribal citizen to be elected as a Supreme Court Justice, eliminating the previous requirement of full tribal citizenship unless waived by a 2/3 vote of the National Council.

• NCA 12-129 authorizing a special appropriation of $2,348.18 for unpaid funeral services of a MCN citizen. Yahola sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0. Thomas was out of the room at the time of the vote.

• NCA 12-131 authorizing a special appropriation of $25,566.36 to the Muskogee Indian Community. Reps. Eddie LaGrone and Beaver sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 12-133 authorizing a supplemental appropriation of $15,000 to the environmental services 2012 fiscal year budget. LaGrone sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 12-134 authorizing a donation of $20,000 to Medicine Rock Inc. Yahola sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 12-136 authorizing a special appropriation of $7,237.32 to financially assist a Muscogee (Creek) youth with prosthetics. Johnson sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 12-138 amending MCNCA Title 20, Section 1-102, entitled "Administrative Management." Jones sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 12-140 authorizing a donation to Rob Wallace for U.S. Congress. Speaker Alexander sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 12-141 amending MCNCA Title 21, Section 5-105 entitled "Age Limit for Gaming" to remove the prohibition for persons under the age of 16 years to be on premises where gaming is being conducted. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 12-2. Medina and Johnson voted against it. Greene was out of the room at the time of the vote.

According to River Spirit CEO Pat Crofts, this change will allow those under 16 into the casino's hotel once it is completed. Crofts stated that the gaming floor has been rearranged to prevent minors' exposure to gambling when dining in the casino's restaurants.

• NCA 12-143 authorizing a special appropriation of $1,629.44 for unpaid funeral services of a Muscogee (Creek) citizen. Nichols sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 12-145 authorizing a political contribution of $2,000 to Okla. state Rep. Wade Rousselot. Speaker Alexander sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 12-148 authorizing a special appropriation of $440,000 to the Checotah Indian Community. Jones sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-1. Nichols voted against it.

• NCA 12-150 authorizing a donation to the Native American United Methodist Church in Anaheim. Calif. Rep. Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

See Quarterly - 3

QUARTERLY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

• NCA 12-151 authorizing the expenditure of funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development for the College of the Muscogee Nation to construct a community higher education student auxiliary services building. Johnson sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 12-152 appropriating $2,000,000 to construct a community higher education student auxiliary services building for the College of the Muscogee Nation. Johnson sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 12-153 authorizing a special appropriation of $5,000 to Montesoma Indian Baptist Church. Coachman and Wind sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 12-154 authorizing a donation to Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Southeast Oklahoma. Jones sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

LaGrone and Hufft were excused from this session.

Creek man saves driver from fiery crash

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — "Really, it was like I wasn't really there, but I knew I had to get him out."

That's what was running through his mind when Steven "Wotko" Long and another driver, Benjamin Lane, rescued James Hodge from a flaming car wreck on Highway 16 in Okmulgee County, July 5.

"I was going to Holdenville, to a funeral," Long said, "when I came upon a cloud of dust and I saw flames coming from the ditch. I saw the car had fire on the dash and windshield."

Long said he pulled over and saw that the driver, Hodge, was unconscious in the front seat.

Long first tried to pull Hodge out from the back seat, but couldn't. He next tried the front door and discovered that the driver's seat belt was still fastened. Flames coming up from the floorboard prevented Long from reaching the seat belt, so he tried to wake Hodge to get him out of the car. Hodge's feet were burnt so he couldn't walk. Minutes after Long and Lane had pulled Hodge to safety, the car's gas tank exploded.

As it happened, Long wasn't worrying about his own safety as he struggled to extricate the driver.

"I was worried about my back. It had been hurt before and I was thinking, 'please don't go out on me now.' It was scary, but it didn't hit me until I got home."

MNN/Rebecca Landsberry
Steven "Wotko" Long accepts Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger's Medal of Valor at the July 28 Quarterly Session of the MCN National Council.

The explosion spread flames along the dry grass, forcing rescuers to move Hodge twice and causing more trouble, Long said. Someone told Long that the fire had spread to the grass under his car, so he had to move it. That's when he thought that enough help had arrived on the scene, so he decided to go on his way. He remained unidentified by authorities until family members brought his bravery to the attention of Muscogee (Creek) Nation officials.

Long visited Hodge at the hospital and met his family, "As soon as I saw them through the glass, they looked at me and asked, "Are you the one?"

Long recalls they sang a hymn and prayed together, giving thanks that no one was killed,

"That's the part I liked," he said.

At the July 28 Quarterly Session of the National Council, MCN Principal Chief George Tiger presented Long with the Principal Chief's Medal Of Valor.

"That was wonderful, like walking on heaven."

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MCN Reintegration Program accepting donations for fire victims

Media Release
MCN Reintegration Program

HENRYETTA — Several citizens within the Creek Nation boundaries have been affected by the recent raging wildfires that spread through Oklahoma. Many people were left homeless with nothing but the clothes on their back.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program is accepting donations at their office in Henryetta for victims in need now through Aug. 21.

A drop-off site for items at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Complex in Okmulgee will also be available via a box trailer set up in the mound building parking lot beginning Aug. 22.

Donated items will be distributed Aug. 24 in Mannford until supplies last.

Items such as hygiene items, bedding, linens, paper goods, school supplies and toys may be dropped off at the Reintegration Program office located in Henryetta, Okla.

For more information, please contact the MCN Reintegration Program located at 615 E. Corporation St., in Henryetta at 918-652-2676.

MCN Community Cooling Stations

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224 E. Poplar, Holdenville, OK
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Bristow
710 S. Main, Bristow, OK
Joann Wacoche 918-367-2249
Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Eufaula
800 Forest Ave, Eufaula, OK
Julea Wilson 918-617-0196
Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Checotah
500 Owens Ave. Checotah, OK
Wilson Bear 918-473-5290
Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Duck Creek
3890 Hwy 75, Beggs, OK
(918) 267-3460
Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Okemah
1100 S. Woody Guthrie, Okemah, OK
(918) 623-9227
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"Caring when it counts"

Fires in Creek County take their toll

MNN/Gerald Wofford
Homes across the Muscogee (Creek) Nation were burned in the Creek County fires. The fire reached Lucy Cloud's yard, but spared her home on the outskirts of Bristow. Pictured below is a Bible found in Cloud's yard. Many families lost all their personal belongings.

Gerald Wofford
MNN Feature Writer

BRISTOW — Fires across the state of Oklahoma recently destroyed hundreds of homes and nearly 60,000 acres in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation territory of Creek County, according to the Creek County Sheriff's Office. After speculation by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) as to how the fire began and examination of the evidence including looking into allegations the fire was started on tribal land, the fire has since been determined to be on public land. Regardless of how the fire began, many who lost their possessions are looking for strength to carry on.

Lucy Cloud has always had faith in the Creator. Throughout good times and bad, her faith in a higher power always kept her grounded, even after a cheerful Friday afternoon traveling on her way home from the Falls Creek Baptist Assembly campgrounds Aug. 3.

Cloud spent a week there with her church, True Vine Indian Baptist Church, at 'Indian Falls Creek,' a week that many Native American Baptist churches from around the state congregate to enjoy a time of encouragement and inspiration at a site near Davis, Okla.

As Cloud enjoyed the ride home on the church bus with many members of her congregation, her son David Cloud, contacted her. David, who lives just down the road from his mother, told her that there was a big grass fire that had destroyed lots of the property around where they lived and was now approaching both their homes.

When she finally arrived, Cloud saw what her son had described. Cloud heard her brother, Chapman, and her mother, Nellie, had homes nearby, which were destroyed.

Although Cloud's house was spared, it came after a struggle from a devastating forest fire that saw so many Native and non-Native homes completely abolished. Cloud's house was saved with thanks in part to the BIA firefighters in the area assisting and protecting the many Native American homes in the area.

Many tribes from the Muscogee (Creek), Cheyenne, Seneca, Cherokee and Sac and Fox made themselves available when the fires became a major priority at 3 a.m., Thursday morning.

Charlie Harley from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Eastern Oklahoma Region Firefighters was battling the blazes. Harley, like other Native firefighters including John Buckley and Scott Kopessah have been going non-stop since these fires began. They've gotten very little rest, even after the fires were finally put under control.

Scott Bradshaw from the National Interagency Fire Center Department began to access the damage as well. One important facet of the investigation will be the start of the fire and the 'hot spots' as well.

"A 'hot spot' is the area that usually is the beginning of the fire," explains Harley, "every fire has a story and you just have to get down into the ashes and look at everything. If you find your hot spot, you can usually begin to find other answers too," Bradshaw said.

In another region of the fire's trail, three men were taken into custody by local authorities for possible arson charges.

Cloud's house was saved and she thanks God that no member of her family was hurt. Near Cloud's house lies her family cemetery plots. The family honors their deceased in the traditional way of constructing wooden arbors over the grave sites. The fires came close, but not enough to do any damage.

Later, after the all the charred objects and black trees were smoldering and gray ash was the only thing to be seen for miles, Harley points to two cedar trees on Lucy's property that he says provide hope.

"The cedar on the right is all burnt and will not survive, but the cedar on the left is still green, despite all the damage and it will be alright. With Lucy's faith and a resilient cedar too, this Muscogee (Creek) lady and her family, will overcome and make it," he said.

MNN/Gerald Wofford
Fires reached the edge of Cloud's family cemetery. None of the grave sites were burned by the wildfires that ravaged other parts of Creek County.

Response

Continued from Page 1

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger said the tribe is pooling its resources and teaming up with outside agencies to assist those impacted.

"We're working with local and state officials, in particular Oklahoma Rep. Skye McNiel, Sen. Brian Bingham and Mannford City Manager Mike Nunneley and pooling our resources from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and other agencies to address the healing process of the communities."

The fire's origin is an ongoing investigation. Tiger said they are working with all agencies involved and so far there is no definite origin of the fires in Creek County.

"We understand that there are a number of origins being investigated at this time. It is unclear if any of the places being looked at are within our tribal jurisdiction," he said. "But we are assisting in the matter however we can, to get to the bottom of this. In the meantime, we plan to do all we can to help our citizens and neighbors. Tragedy at this time doesn't see color lines and we're going to be a part of helping any way we can."

MCN Lighthorse is taking all calls for those who need help or would like to donate to the relief efforts. Lighthorse can be reached at 918-732-7800.

For more information, contact Neely Tsoodle, MCN Public Relations Director at 918-758-8269.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In re the Name Change of)
)
B. L. H.) Case Number: CV-2012-99
and)
K. C. H.)

NOTICE OF FILING PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION TO: Whom it may concern

The Petitioners, Matthew Ellis and Valerie Richelle Hotop, have filed a *Petition for Change of Name* in the above Court to have their minor children's last name changed to reflect the father's name, the same will be heard in the courtroom before the Honorable Judge in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District Courthouse, in Okmulgee, Oklahoma, on the 23 day of August, 2012 at 1 o'clock P .m, or as soon thereafter as counsel can be heard. Any person may file a written protest in this case prior to the date set for the hearing.

Given under my hand a seal this 29 day of June, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
By: Shalon McClenathan
Deputy Court Clerk

APPROVED FOR ISSUANCE:
Courtney L. Eagan-Smith, MCN#543
Shannon L. Prescott, MCN#165
Kurt K. Townsend, MCN#642
Gregory N. Hope, MCN#641
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Legal Services
114 N. Grand, North Lobby
Okmulgee, OK 74447

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF:) Case No. JV-2011-03
) FILED
T.B., DOB: 07-23-97) 2012 JUL 5 P
B.B., DOB: 09-19-05) MUSCOGEE (CREE
) DISTRICT CO
Alleged Deprived Children.) COURT CLE

NOTICE OF HEARING TO:

Reginald Benson, Natural Father of T.B.

YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that a Petition to Terminate Parental Rights has been filed against you in the above-styled and numbered cause and will be heard in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the 9th day of October 2012 at 1 :00 P.M.

YOU ARE HEREBY INFORMED that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the child remains a ward of the Court and custody be continued in the Children and Family Services Administration for continued foster placement of possible pre-adoptive placement. **YOU ARE FUTHER INFORMED** that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.

JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In re the marriage of HARPER,)
)
SAMUEL EDWARD HARPER,)
)
Petitioner,) Case No. DV 2012-42
)
vs.)
)
DEANNA LYNN HARPER,)
)
Respondent.)

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Deanna Lynn Harper

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for paternity in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. DV-2012-42, styled In re the Marriage of Harper, Samuel Edward Harper, Petitioner and Deanna Lynn Harper, Respondent. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to a *Petition for Dissolution of Marriage* from you.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear at the hearing on the 23rd day of August 2012. at 1:00 o'clock p.m. Failure to respond and/or attend will result in the allegations contained in the *Petition* being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in his *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 5th day of July, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District
By: Shalon McClenathan
(Deputy)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In the Matter of the Guardianship)
of the Persons and Estate of :) Case No. GD-2012-11
M.P., R.G. and A.A.H.,) Judge Gregory Bigler
)
Minor Children.)

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

To: Armondo Alexander Herrera, Sr., and Abel Garcia

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for guardianship of the Minor Children in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, GD 2012-11, styled In re the Guardianship of M.P, R.G. and A.A.H., minor children. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to guardianship over the minor children based on abandonment.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner and appear at the hearing scheduled for the 23rd day of August, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Mound Building, Hwy 75 and 56 Loop, Okmulgee, OK or the allegations contained in the *Petition* will be taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in her *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 19 day of July, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District
By: Jobie King
(Deputy)

Approved:
Shannon L. Prescott, MCN#165
Kurt K. Townsend, MCN#642
Courtney L. Eagan-Smith, MCN#543
Gregory N. Hope, MCN#641

Rollin' ON THE RIVER
Summer Scratch & Win
Through August 19th
Thursday - Sunday
Scratch and match 5 beach balls on your game card and win
$100,000!
Plus, scratch off the Instant Win box for guaranteed prizes including a 2012 Camaro convertible, jet skis and more! Receive one scratch card for every 500 points earned on your Infinity Card.
See Players Club for more details.
RIVER SPIRIT Casino
81ST & RIVERSIDE | TULSA | (918) 299-8518 | RIVERSPIRITTULSA.COM

Muscogee (Creek) Nation launches scholarship fundraising campaign

Mvskoke Media/Tyler Roberds

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation established the Creek Nation Education Foundation, which includes privately-funded higher education grants like the Philip Coon Scholarship donated by MCN Principal Chief George Tiger for $1,000.

Media Release
MCN Public Relations

OKMULGEE —The Muscogee (Creek) Nation kicked off its student scholarship campaign drive on July 1. This initiative fulfills Principal Chief George Tiger's promise to support education by helping provide scholarship support, therefore advancing MCN citizens into higher-paying jobs.

The Creek Nation Foundation Inc., which had its inception in 1975, is a charitable institution and is a duly constituted 501 (c)(3) entity with existing recognition of exemption from taxation from the IRS.

Chief Tiger's objective is to raise more than $10 million over the next four years to help both the unemployed and the under-employed Muscogee citizens.

The Chief's primary educational concerns are assisting tribal citizens in developing necessary job skills and to hold the correct educational credentials to compete in high-technological work environments. The Nation's current date indicate that many districts in the MCN experience an unemployment rate which exceeds 10 percent.

The Chief's economic development plan calls for the advancement of a skilled work force with current job opportunities. Today, many of these positions are often filled with non-Creeks. Chief Tiger was the first contributor to the Creek Nation Foundation, Inc. when he established the 'Phillip Coon Scholarship Fund' in honor of all veterans who served the country.

The Chief encourages Muscogee citizens to pursue careers in healthcare, law, business, information technology and technical occupations.

Donors have the option of directing how their gift will be used. If donors provide for the general support for the foundation's activities, this would allow the Foundation board to determine how best to allocate the money. The donation could be for either a specific student or perhaps for a particular educational activity.

All gifts and donations received by the Foundation are placed in three categories: the General Fund, Designated Fund or a Special Fund. Donations may be gifts of stock, particularly appreciated security, which would support the Foundation while offering a tax benefit to the donor. Memorial Donations can be made as a memorial for a loved one, and Planned Giving may be generated by donors who wish to remember the Foundation in their wills. A donor may also want to name the Foundation as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy.

The time pledge donation is a commitment to donate a specific amount of money for a specified number of years.

The Creek Nation Foundation, Inc. will give citizens an opportunity to contribute to the future health, education and general welfare of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. To contribute, donors may also complete the form to the right with their information.

Four scholarships have been established since the Foundation's kickoff date: the Ecke 'Mvnokeckv: Ridge/Giles Scholarship for Single Mothers, Mahaley Tarpalechee Jones-Mother's Gift, Susan Colleen Wilson Memorial for Orphans and the Phillip Coon Scholarship.

For more information, please contact Sandra Peters at speters@mcn-nsn.gov or 918-732-7624.

Information is also available on the Foundation website: http://creeknationfoundation-inc.org

Creek Nation Foundation, Inc.

School Clothing applications available through Oct. 26

Media Release
MCN Social Services

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation School Clothing Program 2012/2013, is now accepting applications until Oct. 26, 2012 at 5 p.m.

This program is open to all Muscogee (Creek) citizen students no matter where they live in the United States.

Call 918-549-2473 or toll free at 1-800-482-1979 for an application to be mailed or faxed directly.

All applications must be returned or mailed to: School Clothing Program, P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK. 74447.

Please do not fax or e-mail the applications.

For more information, contact the School Clothing Program at 918-549-2473 or toll free at 1-800-482-1979, ext. 2473.

MCN Office of Child Care awarded $500 from local organizations

Media Release
MCN Office of Child Care

OKMULGEE — The Office of Child Care has recently received two donations to enhance the Nation's Child Development Center's (CDC) libraries. The first donation of $500.00 came from the University of Oklahoma Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity (SAE) and Native Noise Entertainment owners Rick and Katie Condit of Blanchard. Both organizations have worked together on many projects over the years and have built a special bond and now would like to share that with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and their future as well.

The second donation was received from the Okmulgee Block Buster Video. Store Manager, Crystal Petree wanted to bring the community together and promote it in the store. The store held a book drive for three weeks and collected 214 books. These books will be used in the Okmulgee CDC.

MCN Office of Childcare/Courtesy

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Child Care received a $500 donation to be used toward books from Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity and Native Noise Entertainment of Blanchard.

The Office of Child Care Manager, Barbara O'Neal would like to thank the SAE Fraternity of OU, the Condits, and the Family Video of Okmulgee for their donations. These donations will help replace and add new books to the center's libraries.

Roberts takes first place in language fair

Media Release
MCN Language Program

OKLAHOMA CITY — Brian (Nokose) Lee Roberts Jr. participated in the 10th Annual Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair at the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History at the University of Oklahoma earlier this spring. Roberts sung 'Cesvs Vc Vnokeces' in Creek.

He won first place in his division of Pre-K through second grade in the individual Song in the Native Language. First place winners also sang at the Rotunda at the Capitol April 9.

Roberts met Rep. McPeak at the Capitol. Roberts is the son of Brian Roberts Sr., and Theresa Marshall. He is the grandson of Wilbert and KoKo Lowe, Skipper Roberts and Darlene Marshall.

Creek Nation Foundation, Inc.

Student Scholarship Campaign Drive

Contribution and Donation Form

Name:_____
Business Name:_____
Address of Employee:_____
City/State/Zip Code:_____

Two Ways of Donating

Method 1 - Making Your Donation by Writing a Check

_____Yes, I will contribute to the Student Scholarship Campaign Drive and will be forwarding a check in the amount of $_____to the Creek Nation Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

Method 2 - Making Your Donation On-Line

_____Yes, I will contribute to the Student Scholarship Campaign Drive and will be making my donation on-line at www.CreekNationFoundationInc.org

In addition, I want my contributions to be:

____Unrestricted
____Restricted – Please indicate the restriction in the space below:

In addition, I want my contributions to be:

____In the name, memory or honor of:_____
____Deposited in the Claude Cox Scholarship Fund Account
____Deposited in the Bill Fife Scholarship Fund Account
____Deposited in the Perry Beaver Scholarship Fund Account
____Deposited in the Phillip Coon Scholarship Fund Account

Note: All contributions are tax deductible.

Signature:_____**Date:**_____

MCN Head Start centers accepting applications

Media Release
MCN Head Start

RYAL — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Head Start centers in Ryal and Wainwright are now accepting applications for the 2012-2013 school year. Ryal Public Schools will be providing iPads for the students and both schools will have an after school program.

Requirements for all programs include: parents income verification, (last year's income tax, pay stubs, W-2 form, TANF letter, SSI Letter, or statement from employer), child's immunization record, child's medical card, child's CDIB (if applicable) child's birth certificate, child's social security card.

For more information, contact the MCN Head Start office at 918-758-7898 or 918-732-7899.

Creek students 'WINS' with internship program

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

Photo Courtesy/Jalin Keawphalouk
Muscogee (Creek) students (left to right) Sarah Dill, Jalin Keawphalouk and Jordan Harmon participated in the WINS program and are pictured above.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — "I first heard about it from someone in my class. I noticed she had a WINS shirt on and I asked her what it was. She told me Washington Internship for Native Students," said Muscogee (Creek) student Jalin Keawphalouk.

The WINS program was developed by American University to give American Indian, Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian students the opportunity to attend various courses on Native American issues and provide them with internship experience at various agencies throughout Washington, D.C.

Students participated in various internships this summer including: Indian Health Services, the Social Security Administration, Census Bureau, Department of Veteran's Affairs, Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute of Health and the National Science Foundation.

School Program Assistant of Professional and Extended Studies Yeree Wooi stated that some students end up influencing policy at these agencies during their internships or receiving job offers upon completion.

"A lot of students will bring in their knowledge of the needs in Indian Country from their reservations and be able to influence the policy here in Washington, D.C., as well as learn about it. Quite a few actually stay in the D.C., area and do their work for Indian Country here," she said.

Students who have graduated within the last six months or are still in enrolled may participate in the WINS program up to two times as long as they completed their internship and course work during their first participation in the WINS program.

"Sometimes the same agency sponsors them again so they are able to continue their project," Wooi said.

According to Wooi, this continued participation can help enhance student's relationships with their internship sponsors.

"Right now we have a student who became the research assistant of a professor at the Census Bureau and he is participating in things like writing proposals and grants," she said.

Other students will end up staying at AU to complete their degrees.

"We have students that fall in love with the program in the summer and decide to finish up their major here in the fall through the main campus' courses," said Wooi.

There are three different internships offered throughout the year; the summer program that lasts eight weeks and gives students six college credit hours and the fall and spring program both lasting 14 weeks, and providing students with nine credit hours.

Each internship structure provides its own advantages and experiences

"The AU courses they take will pertain to their major and that's what is great about the fall and spring. Summer is very in-depth about Native American issues," Wooi said.

During the fall and spring program students take and internship course in the evening and usually do courses in their major part-time. Students are expected to work full-time in their sponsored internships from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday-Friday.

College freshmen are not allowed in the program due to this intense schedule.

"It is such a rigorous course load for students and because of that we think that freshmen might not be ready for working full-time and taking these courses," Wooi said.

Keawphalouk who participated in this year's summer program gave a first hand account of the experience.

"We worked eight hours a day and took classes at night. We were in class Tuesday-Thursday 7-9 p.m. We mainly toured Washington, D.C. on the weekends," he said.

Muscogee (Creek) students Jordan Harmon and Sarah Dill also attended the program along with Keawphalouk.

Keawphalouk plans on returning to the program and recommends that other students participate as well.

"This is my first summer but I do plan on going back. It was a really good program and I would recommend it to anyone," he said.

Most students accepted will receive a full scholarship to attend the program that will cover the cost of tuition, travel to and from Washington, D.C., lodging, a meal plan and the cost of activities scheduled by the program.

Cost for activities not pertaining directly to the program such as medical care and independent social activities as well as a $200 non-refundable program deposit are the responsibility of the student. Students may apply to their independent tribes to help cover these additional costs.

Applicants must be a member of a federally-recognized tribe and complete the application process.

The application deadline for the coming fall semester is Sept. 1.

This application and further details about WINS can be located at the program's website at http://www.american.edu/washington-semester/wins/index.cfm

DePaola selected as Scotch Plains, N.J., mayor

Gerald Wofford
MNN Feature Writer

SCOTCH PLAINS, N.J. — One can take a Muscogee (Creek) out of the homeland, but they can't take the homeland out of the Muscogee (Creek), just ask tribal citizen Mary Thygesen DePaola of Scotch Plains, N.J.

DePaola took the helm of Mayor of Scotch Plains June 4, as the first Muscogee (Creek) woman to have done so.

"I had served on the Town Council for four years before becoming Mayor," explained DePaola, "our previous mayor, Nancy Malool, stepped down."

Town Council members voted DePaola in as mayor. At the time, she was serving as Deputy Mayor until Nov. 6, when will enter the race for mayor of the city's general election.

"I asked my party if they would support me as mayor. I was going to run anyway when the election was held, hopefully I will be successful in that election and then I will serve in that capacity for the next four years."

When DePaola is not serving her civic duty, she also helps with the Scotch Plains YMCA where she serves as Vice President. DePaola also goes to some of her children's classes and shares the tribe's culture and history.

"I have six children, from kindergarten to high school. I go to the kids classes and share traditional stories, I wear my traditional Creek dress, share stories, I even made frybread for one of the classes," laughs DePaola, "I want my kids to be proud of their Native American heritage."

MCN businessman raises historic theater from ashes

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

TULSA — The Admiral Twin Drive-In Theater in Tulsa has seen more action and drama than many of the movies shown throughout the years on its twin projection screens.

However, just like the heroes in movies at the historic theater, the Admiral Twin has survived another day.

The Twin reopened in June after it burned down in 2010 and was vandalized during the reconstruction process.

Co-owner of the Admiral Twin and Muscogee (Creek) citizen Blake Smith shared some of the updates he and his business partner Scott Peace have made to the historic theater.

"We added a lot of modern amenities like a new concession stand, kitchen and new bathrooms," Smith said.

Smith also shared plans to upgrade the theater to digital projection in two years.

The Admiral Twin Theater opened in 1951 and was originally called the Modernaire Drive-In, which had only one screen.

"They added the second screen I believe the second year they were open and changed the name to the Admiral Twin Drive-In because the theater grounds used to stretch all the way to Admiral Street before they put the highway in," Smith said.

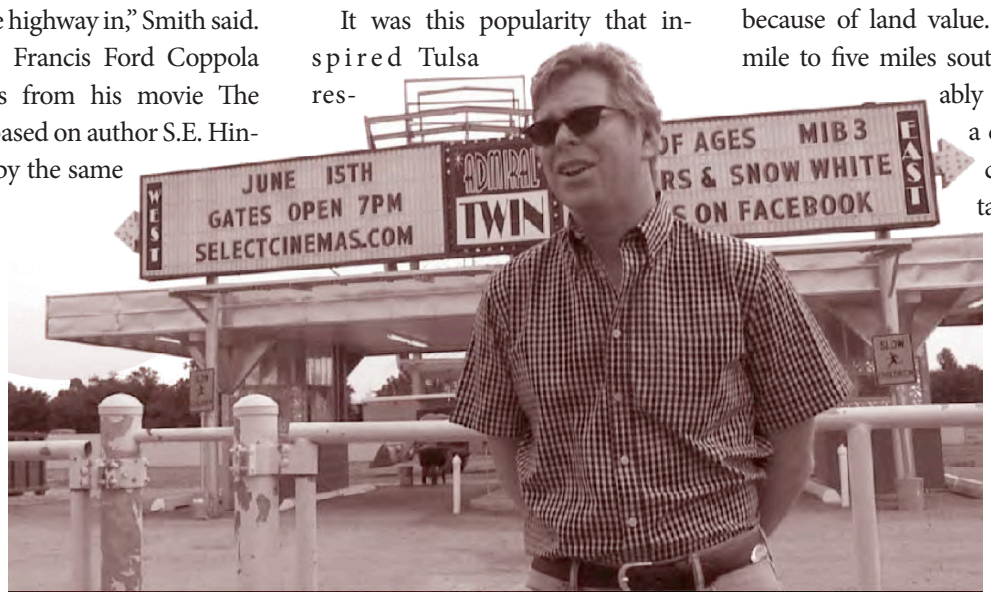
In 1982, Francis Ford Coppola shot scenes from his movie The Outsiders based on author S.E. Hinton's book by the same name.

"That is sort of our claim to fame, she was a very big fan of going to the drive-In. It was a big hang out for students back then and that's why it is in the book," Smith said.

Smith's father Richard Smith purchased the theater in 1987 and he and Peace bought the Twin from his father in 2000.

"It has always been a high-grossing drive-in. During the '50s and '60s there were as many as 10 or 11 drive-ins in the Tulsa area and now it's the only one," said Smith.

It was this popularity that inspired Tulsa residents to donate over $30,000 toward reconstructing the theater after the 2010 fire and with this show of support from the community, Smith gained the confidence that rebuilding the Twin was a worthy investment.



Beyond its historical notoriety, Smith explained another reason the Twin has outlasted other drive-ins.

"Drive-ins mostly went away because of land value. If we sat a mile to five miles south, we probably wouldn't be a drive-in. We could have taken that land and sold it off for development but because we sit in a funny area in reference to the highway that's why it still works as a drive-in," he said.

Smith and his partner own several other entertainment venues under their parent company Select Cinemas including River Walk movies contained within River Walk Crossing, recently purchased by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

"I have talked to a couple of folks with the MCN and they seem to have some big plans for the River Walk Crossing. I am very encouraged about them coming aboard out here," Smith said.

Smith also co-owns Broken Arrow MovieStar and a bar and grill called Magoo's, known for its 30 billiard tables.

Much like his theater the Admiral Twin, Smith continues to find heroic levels of success despite tough times.

"We try to expand as much as we can. It's definitely a challenge out there, especially in a recession but we are doing pretty well. We've been blessed," Smith said.

Community Calendar August 2012

Resource Room now available in Wetumka

WETUMKA — A resource room is now available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., for job searches, resume and homework at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Southern Regional Office, located at 333 S. Washita in Wetumka, Okla.

For more information, contact Darleata Tiger or Natasha Harjo at 405-452-1101.

TCIC Garage Sale set for Aug. 18

TULSA — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community will host a garage sale benefitting members' attendance to the National Indian Conference On Aging Sept. 13-18.

Breakfast and lunch will be served at the event and tables are available.

For more information, please contact Tulsa Creek Indian Community at 918-298-2464.

Camp Revival set for Aug. 20-25

HENRYETTA — Tiger Mountain Camp Grounds is hosting an all believers revival" entitled "Fire in the Camp."

The event will feature a variety of musical guests and speakers and will run from Aug. 20-25. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

RV hookups and lodging will be available. For more information call Norman Daniel at 918-441-8779, Robert Lay Jr. at 918-652-5340.

Berryhill/Randall Family Reunion set for Aug. 25

HENRYETTA — The Berryhill and Randall Family Reunion is set for Saturday, Aug. 25 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., at the Wilson Indian Community Center in Henryetta.

For more information, call 918-355-1442 or 918-304-4002.

Marshall family reunion set for Sept. 3

WETUMKA — The Lewis and Mandy Marshall Family Reunion will be held Monday, Sept. 3, at the Wetumka Indian Baptist Church in Wetumka from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

A pot-luck meal will be served and attendees are encouraged to contribute. There will be door prizes for adults and prizes for children's' games.

For more information, contact Pauline Levi at 405-737-0174 or Rosalee Marshall at 405-683-2101.

Morris Indian Community to elect officers Sept. 6

MORRIS — The Morris Indian Community will elect officers Sept. 6, 2012 for Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and Sergeant at Arms at Trinity Baptist Church during the regularly scheduled meeting at 7 p.m.

The term of office shall be for a period of two years beginning Oct. 1 and ending Sept. 30.

Letters of intent will be accepted through Aug. 30 and should be mailed to: Morris Indian Community, P.O. Box 22, Morris, OK 74445.

For more information, contact Lizanne Holata at 918-319-0406 or Billy Jack Wilson at 918-752-7195

GIC Open Market Bazaar set for Sept. 8

GLENPOOL — The Glenpool Indian Community will host a fund-raising bazaar Sept. 8 at the GIC Community Building from 7 a.m. - noon and from 7-9 p.m., weather permitting.

The event is open to the public and will feature items for barter, sale or trade including flea market, garden and Native American arts and crafts. A concession will be available.

Limited booth space is available for pre-registered vendors on a first come first served basis.

For more information, contact GIC Treasurer Eleanor Irene VanBuskirk at 918-946-0077.

Okmulgee Indian Community to elect officers Sept. 10

OKMULGEE — The Okmulgee Indian Community will elect officers Sept. 10 for the following positions: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and Sergeant-at -Arms.

The election will be held at the OIC Community Building beginning at 6 p.m. For more information, please contact Ginni Hall at 918-752-0018.

Duck Creek Indian Community meeting set for Sept. 11

DUCK CREEK — The regularly scheduled Duck Creek Indian Community meeting set for Sept. 4 has been rescheduled to Sept. 11 beginning at 7 p.m.

For more information, please contact DCIC Secretary Vickie Tiger by email at dukck@beggstelco.net.

Montesoma Baptist 125th anniversary set for Sept. 22

OKEMAH — Montesoma Indian Baptist Church will host its 125th Anniversary Celebration, Sept. 22-23 beginning at 5 p.m., Saturday. Festivities will continue with a special service later that evening at 7 p.m., and Sunday at 6 a.m., and a speaker at 11 a.m.

All are welcome to attend. For more information call 918-623-1811 or 918-623-9522.

Save the Date
Sixth Annual
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Citizens' Diabetes Awareness Summit
KERRETV MOMEN YEKCETV
© Jon Tiger '07
TO KNOW AND TO BE STRONG
Although this event is primarily for MCN citizens, their spouses or significant support persons and other American Indians living in MCN communities are also welcome.
For information contact: Irene Culley (918) 636-8735 or Duane Meadows (918) 695-1325
August 28, 2012
Okemah First Baptist Church
120 S. 6th
Okemah, Ok 74859
GREAT SEAL OF THE MUSCOGEE NATION I.T.
MUSCOGEE NATION
DIVISION OF HEALTH
ESTABLISHED 1970
Summit is Free

MCN Citizens' Diabetes Awareness Summit set for Aug. 28 in Okemah

Media Release
MCN Division of Health

OKEMAH — The sixth annual MCN Citizens' Diabetes Awareness Summit will be held at the Okemah First Baptist Church, located at 120 South 6th St., in Okemah, Okla., Tuesday, Aug. 28, 2012.

Participants should arrive from 7 - 8:45 a.m., for cholesterol checks (fasting is required) and registration for the event. Choices of exercise available include: walking, Tai Chi, yoga, Zumba or chair exercises which will begin at 7:30 a.m.

The summit program will be held from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Lunch and snacks will be provided and the free event is open to all tribal citizens as well as spouses or support persons and other American Indians living in MCN communities.

Nationally recognized speakers include Dr. Darryl Tonemah, a member of the Kiowa/Comanche/Tuscarora tribes, has worked in the field of health and wellness for over 20 years. He has given workshops and keynotes across the United States, Canada and Mexico. He has recently been named to the Board of Directors for the American Diabetes Association. He is a partner in the Native Health Group (NHG) with primary goal of decreasing health disparities among the Native American population and increase access to care.

Lisa Pivec is the director of Community Health Promotion for Cherokee Nation Health Services. She holds a master's degree from NSU in college teaching with an emphasis in health and has been with the Cherokee Nation since 1991. She currently is the principal investigator for several funding agreements with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

She directs the Healthy Nation program, including the Male Seminary Recreation Center and serves as lead staff on the recently funded National Public Health Improvement Initiative from Centers for Disease Control.

For more information, please contact Duane Meadows, at (918) 695-1325 or Irene Culley at (918) 636-8735.

MCN Tribal Driveways Program now accepting applications

Media Release
MCN Tribal Driveways Program

OKMULGEE — The Tribal Driveways Program is accepting applications for repair of accessible driveways for property owners who reside within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation boundaries. Applicant must be enrolled with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation tribe.

Hours of operation are 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Friday. We are located on the Creek Nation Capitol Complex area between the Indian Health Service building and the old Head Start building in Okmulgee, Okla.

The Tribal Driveways Program addresses the needs of our Muscogee (Creek) Nation elders and tribal citizens that require services due to the poor condition of their private drives.

ELIGIBILITY: (Provide copies of)

1. Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizenship card
2. Warranty Deed (in Creek owner's name)
3. Oklahoma Driver's License or ID
4. Muscogee (Creek) Nation

citizen will be limited to no more than one (1) service every four (4) years

Organization applications are also available for Muscogee (Creek) Nation ceremonial grounds, tribal towns, community centers, churches and when needed, family cemeteries that are within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation boundaries.

For more information or to request an application call 918-732-7651 or 1-800-482-1979.

Honor what is
SACRED
Quit Commercial Tobacco
Tobacco is an ancient tradition in our culture. It's a sacred ritual passed down from our ancestors. But when commercial tobacco took over, everything changed. It is time to honor what is sacred and quit commercial tobacco.
The Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline can help you quit. When you call, you receive free quit coaching and your choice of free patches or gum. They give you the courage and support to quit commercial tobacco for good.
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Free help
Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline
1 800 QUIT NOW
784-8669
OKhelpline.com

Change a life.
Become a Foster/Adoptive Parent
Children. Keepers of our tradition.
NICWA
National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting our children • Preserving our culture
Preserve our heritage, become a foster/adoption parent today.
In the State of Oklahoma, there are Muscogee Creek Children in state and tribal custody looking for a place to call "cuko" (home).
Become a Foster/Adoptive tribal home.
For more information contact: Tammi Reed-Barnett
at (918)732-7883 OR email: tammirb@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

MCN Division of Health attends Systems of Care conference

MCN Division of Health/Courtesy
The MCN Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse Program attended the Georgetown University 2012 Training Institute on improving mental health services for youth at risk for mental health challenges.

Media Release
MCN Division of Health

ORLANDO, Fla. — In early July, the Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse Program (BHSAS) attended the Georgetown University 2012 Training Institute on improving mental health services for children, adolescents, and young adults that are at risk for mental health challenges. In an effort to increase awareness and empower families, BHSAS sponsored three community youth and parents as well as Health Division and tribal leadership to attend this annual conference.

This conference is mandatory for System of Care grant communities like Muscogee (Creek) Nation and it emphasized home and community-based care. A focus is placed on comprehensive and individualized services and supports family-driven and youth-guided care provided within the least restrictive environment. At its core, System of Care is not a separate program or service, rather, the system of care approach is a set of values and principles that provide a framework for overall health systems integration and reform.

For four and a half days, conference participants attended different workshops and institutes outlining innovative approaches on how the system of care approach can guide efforts to improve children's mental health service delivery in a dramatically changing environment. As part of their application to attend the grantee meeting, the youth and parents each had to agree to participation in the training institutes or workshops.

MCN youth in attendance participated in a youth track that included educational workshops and an opportunity to meet Season 10 American Idol alum James Durbin.

Staff and parents attending the institutes enjoyed speaker Dewy Bozella who shared his 26-year struggle to prove his innocence. He found eventual success after he was wrongly convicted of murder in 1983. His message of finding strength and determination in the face of diversity spoke to all parents and staff in attendance.

Finally, one of the most exciting events of the training institutes came when MCN Second Chief Roger Barnett, Secretary of Health, Lt. Seneca Smith, and BHSAS staff had the opportunity to meet with SAMHSA administrator Gary Blau. Blau is a clinical psychologist and Chief of the Child, Adolescent and Family Branch of the federal Center for Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and heads up the Systems of Care movement.

For more information on involvement with the MCN Systems of Care activities, please contact grant coordinator Jessica Seachris at 918-224-9307.

MCN Social Services client service hours 8:30 - 4 p.m.

Media Release
MCN Social Services

OKMULGEE — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Social Services is a client-based program and receives hundreds of calls and in-office visits on a daily basis. In order for caseworkers and or staff to efficiently and promptly complete their job, it is essential to allow time for employees to return calls within the 24-hour notice given to clients and to process applications in a timely manner.

Therefore, Social Services will only see clients and take phone calls between the hours of 8:30 a.m.- 4 p.m. The office will remain open from 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. A caseworker will be available for emergency cases only (burial assistance or air conditioner) during non-client/phone hours. Social Security and School Clothing Programs will remain open from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Citizens who come in during those hours will be asked to fill out the Intake form, the receptionist will make copies of their documents and a caseworker will call them within 24 hours.

For an emergency during non-client/phone hours, please call: Monnie Underwood at 918-549-2555.

For an emergency after hours or on weekends, please call MCN Lighthorse at 918-732-7800.

Mvskoke Film Festival to showcase Native Films

Christina Good Voice
Mvskoke Media Manager

JENKS — The first annual Mvskoke Film Festival is calling for entries for the event, which will showcase the talents of Native filmmakers at the two-day festival Sept. 28 and 29.

Entries will be accepted until Sept. 14.

The festival will be held at Riverwalk Movies, 300 Riverwalk Terrace in Jenks, Okla.

"We are excited to bring this event to Tulsa and hope people really enjoy it," said Gerald Wofford, Mvskoke Film Festival co-coordinator.

The festival will have seven categories: Documentary, Feature, Animation, Comedy, Short (not to exceed 30 minutes) and Student Film. The student category be broken down into two sub-categories which include college/high school and youth.

"The student category will be high school and college individually," Wofford said.

A scholarship is also being created for both student categories, and will be awarded at an awards banquet the evening of Sept. 25. Winners of the festival entries will also be recognized at the banquet, which will be a 'red-carpet' style event for attendees. The awards ceremony will feature a guest speaker, meal and sneak previews of the film entries. Tickets are $15 for the all-inclusive ticket, which will get you into the banquet and both days of the film screenings, $10 for two-day screening ticket and $5 for a one-day ticket to the screenings. Those who enter films will receive two complimentary banquet tickets and two, two-day screening passes.

For the official list of rules, please visit muscogeenation-nsn.gov.

A $35 entry fee is required per entry for professional films, and a $10 entry fee is required for students per entry.

Entries must be submitted in DVD or Blu-ray Disc format.

For more information about the festival and awards banquet, contact co-coordinators Gerald Wofford at 918-732-7635 or gwofford@mcn-nsn.gov or Christina Good Voice at 918-732-7630 or cgoodvoice@mcn-nsn.gov.

Mvskoke Hall of Fame nominations due Sept. 15

Media Release
MCN Tourism & Recreation

TULSA — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation will host the inaugural MVSKOKE Hall of Fame Induction Gala Oct. 11 at the River Spirit Event Center in Tulsa, Okla., from 6 - 9 p.m.

The MVSKOKE Hall of Fame replaces the Living Legends ceremony that was conducted during the annual festival and requires that nominated individuals must have brought recognition to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation or made outstanding contributions to the quality of life and development. The inductee's achievements may be local, national or international in scope.

Individuals inducted to the MVSKOKE Hall of Fame will be honored for their achievements in any of the following:

1. Arts - for endeavors which enhance and support artistic/ cultural life and well-being;

2. Business/ Professional - for entrepreneurial activity, or pursuit of a specific profession and advancement of that profession, or including the establishment and successful operation of a business;

3. Voluntary Service - for voluntary activities and dedication that benefit the immediate and global community;

4. Public Affairs - for public service in areas such as social advocacy, environmental protection, international affairs, political action or organized labor.

Nominations or selection to the MVSKOKE Hall of Fame is not restricted to these fields and individuals may be inducted for their accomplishments in more than one area.

NOMINATION PROCEDURE

At the beginning of each year a campaign is commenced to solicit nominations to the MVSKOKE Hall of Fame. Through a campaign conducted through local media and mailings to Muscogee (Creek) Nation communities, nominations are requested from any member of the Muscogee Nation.

Upon receipt of all nominations by the deadline of Sept. 15, all nominations are reviewed to ensure there is enough background information on the attached forms to include them in the list of nominations for the Selection Committee to consider. Nominators are also allowed to show up in person or with a delegation to state their case in front of the Selection Committee as to why their nominee is deserving of the MVSKOKE Hall of Fame Award.

The Selection Committee then chooses one individual. The Directors of the MVSKOKE Hall of Fame have agreed that there will be one award winner from each category. There will be four inductees each year.

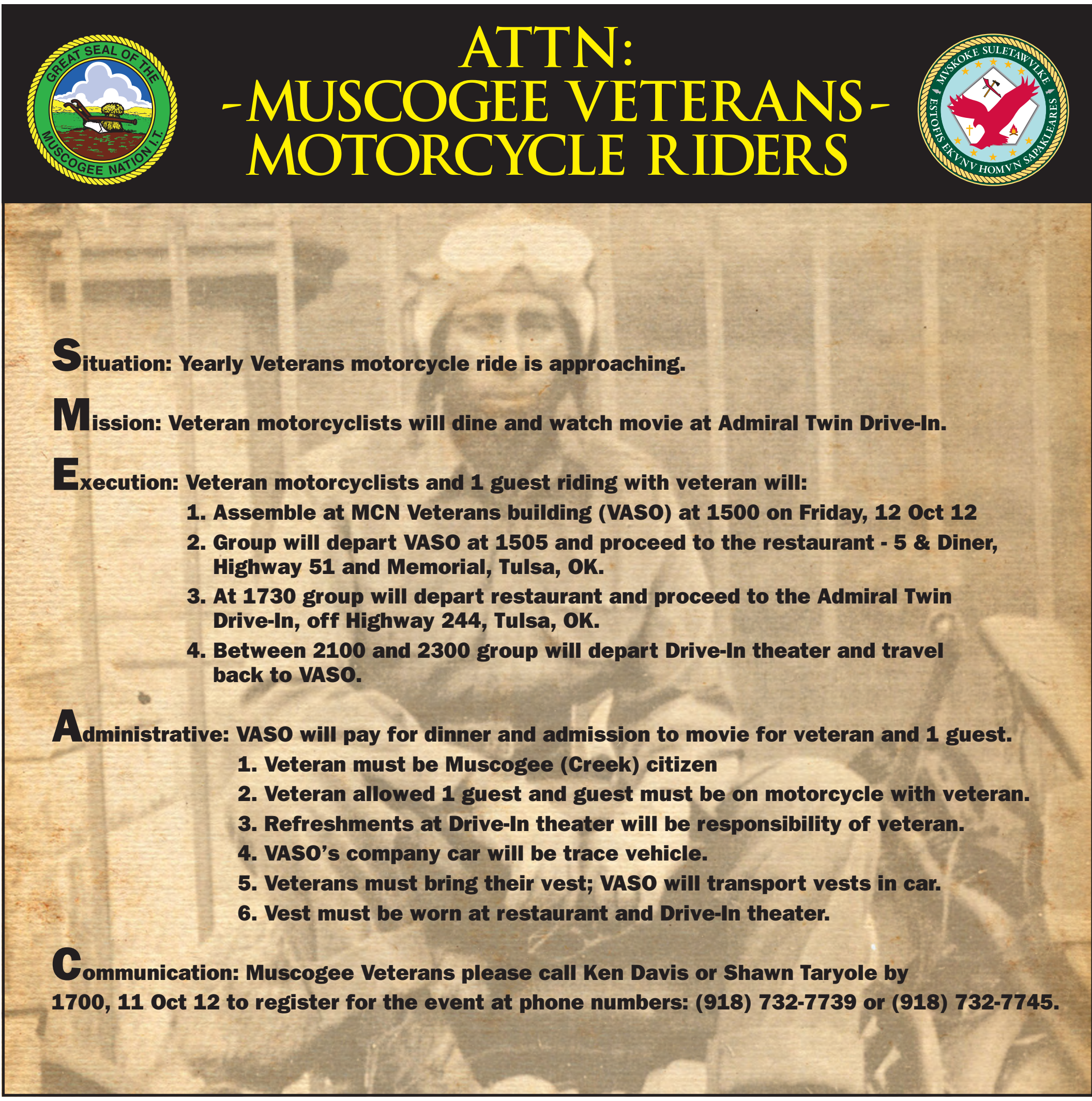
When all nominations for the MVSKOKE Hall of Fame have been received and reviewed for proper documentation, they are distributed to the voting members. Subsequently a meeting is held to review all nominations and to develop a short list of nominees.

The inductee will receive a MVSKOKE Hall of Fame plaque and a portrait of them placed in the tribal complex.

Nominees who are not inducted but are selected as the second or third choices, by voting members of the MVSKOKE Hall of Fame are automatically nominated for the following year.

The event is black tie and traditional clothing gala. Sponsorship opportunities are available for this occasion.

For more information, please call 918-732-7992, or email tourism@muscogeenation-nsn.gov or visit www.themuscogeecreeknation.com


ATTN:
-MUSCOGEE VETERANS-
MOTORCYCLE RIDERS
Situation: Yearly Veterans motorcycle ride is approaching.
Mission: Veteran motorcyclists will dine and watch movie at Admiral Twin Drive-In.
Execution: Veteran motorcyclists and 1 guest riding with veteran will:
1. Assemble at MCN Veterans building (VASO) at 1500 on Friday, 12 Oct 12
2. Group will depart VASO at 1505 and proceed to the restaurant - 5 & Diner, Highway 51 and Memorial, Tulsa, OK.
3. At 1730 group will depart restaurant and proceed to the Admiral Twin Drive-In, off Highway 244, Tulsa, OK.
4. Between 2100 and 2300 group will depart Drive-In theater and travel back to VASO.
Administrative: VASO will pay for dinner and admission to movie for veteran and 1 guest.
1. Veteran must be Muscogee (Creek) citizen
2. Veteran allowed 1 guest and guest must be on motorcycle with veteran.
3. Refreshments at Drive-In theater will be responsibility of veteran.
4. VASO's company car will be trace vehicle.
5. Veterans must bring their vest; VASO will transport vests in car.
6. Vest must be worn at restaurant and Drive-In theater.
Communication: Muscogee Veterans please call Ken Davis or Shawn Taryole by 1700, 11 Oct 12 to register for the event at phone numbers: (918) 732-7739 or (918) 732-7745.

MCN Social Services Elder AC Program available

Media Release
MCN Social Services

OKMULGEE — The air conditioner program provides window units for enrolled Creek citizens 60 years of age or older who have no air conditioning or existing air conditioning is inadequate.

Those under 60 years of age who suffer from or are otherwise prone to chronic illness are also eligible to apply. Both renters and homeowners may apply. Citizens are responsible for pick up and installation of air conditioners.

• Applicants must be enrolled Muscogee (Creek) tribal members

• At least one member of the household must be considered as vulnerable:

- Elder (60 years or older)

- Medically needy as determined by a qualified health practitioner

Required Documents

• Air Conditioner application (may be completed at office or downloaded from MCN website)

• Citizenship cards for all household members (CDIB cards not accepted)

• If medically needy, a statement from a medical doctor of medical necessity

• Notarized statement from a non-family member that the applicant's home has no air conditioner or existing air conditioner is inadequate

• Additional documents may be required based on individual circumstances.

For questions or additional information contact Social Services at 918-549-2445 or 1-800-482-1979.

MCN Social Services Energy Assistance Program available

Media Release
MCN Social Services

OKMULGEE — Applications for the MCN Energy Assistance Program are now being processed. Applicants should submit a copy of the following documents required to determine eligibility:

LIHEAP Participants

• Current electric bill (must be in applicant and/or spouse's name)

• Citizenship card(s) or CDIB card(s) for all household members; if non-native, include driver's license or birth certificate

• Social Security card(s) for all household members

• Income or lack of income for all household members 18 years or older (check stub, unemployment benefits verification, and food stamp or commodities verification will be accepted)

•Written statement stating: I, __, authorize Creek Nation Social Services to sign my application on my behalf. I have not received assistance for my cooling bill from any other agency, community center, etc., within the past 12 months. Applicant must sign, date, and leave a phone number.

Tribal Energy Participants

• Current electric bill (must be in applicant and/or spouse's name)

• Citizenship card(s) for all household members; if non-native, include driver's license or birth certificate

• Social Security card(s) for all household members

• Written statement stating: I, __, authorize Creek Nation Social Services to sign my application on my behalf. Applicant must sign, date, and leave a phone number.

Once the applicant has received an approval letter, he/she will need to bring the approval letter to the office on any Friday in July to pick up their educational material bag.

For questions or additional information contact Social Services at 918-549-2445 or 1-800-482-1979.

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MOVIE NIGHT!

ATTENTION: MUSCOGEE (CREEK) VETERANS

ALL BRANCHES

In Honor of Muscogee Veterans the VASO will be hosting

"MOVIE NIGHT"

(Friday, 19 October 2012)

• Showtime - 1900 Hrs.

Location - Veterans Building (MCN Complex)

Movie - "**THE LOST BATTALION"** (with Rick Schroder)

Drinks - Coke & Diet Coke (Free Of Charge) • Chow - Popcorn (Free Of Charge)

Smoking Lamp is Lit • Price of Admission - FREE (Adults only)

• Muscogee Veterans plus one adult guest

Any questions call Shawn Taryole at the MCN VASO (918) 732-7745

CREEK NATION Casino MUSCOGEE

ELECTRONIC GAMING BLACKJACK POKER
BINGO CREEK CAFE GREEN LIZARD BAR
NEW DIAMOND CLUB MEMBERS
RECEIVE $10 IN FREEPLAY!

Muskogee Nightlife
...at it's finest!

This facility is regulated by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Public Gaming

GREEN LIZARD BAR
Creek Nation Casino Muscogee
Located in the Main Casino. Open late.

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Inside the MNN:

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Business - Creek embroidery business Launched in Jenks

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Muscogee Nation News

Official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and a production of Mvskoke Media

MCN agrees to $11.5 million tobacco compact with state

Deal also settles lawsuit between tribe and state in Tulsa District Court

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKLAHOMA CITY — A new tobacco compact is in place between State of Oklahoma and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Signed on Aug. 24, the new agreement settles a years long dispute between the two governments, with the tribe paying $11.5 million and the state dismissing pending legal action against the tribe in the Tulsa County District Court.

In signing the compact, Gov. Mary Fallin called the MCN a "valuable partner" and cited its economic impact on the state, "We are happy to sign a compact today that will further strengthen our partnership.

In addition to governing the payment of taxes on tobacco products sold at Creek Nation lands, the compact also settles a lawsuit filed by the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office.

"I appreciate the leadership of Chief Tiger and officials of the Creek Nation for their spirit and cooperation during the negotiation of this compact."

MNN/Sterling Cosper

Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt (left), Gov. Mary Fallin (center) and Principal Chief George Tiger (right) signed documents on a $11.5 million tobacco compact between the state and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation at the state capitol Aug. 24 in Oklahoma City.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger stated that the compact was historic and was far too long overdue. The compact would be beneficial to all Oklahomans, native or not, he said, "We're looking forward to more relationships, not only the state of Oklahoma but in communities we share. After all, we're Oklahomans and we know that what we do, as tribal nations, is good for the state of Oklahoma as well."

Tiger also thanked the MCN National Council for its action in unanimously approving the compact in an emergency session Aug. 23, with a vote of 15-0.

Tiger added that pricing at Creek smoke shops would reflect other market prices, "I believe it's important that we had this signed today because it allows for our smoke shops to be able to be competitive. It's a good thing."

The compact governs the payment of taxes to the state on the retail sale of cigarettes and other tobacco products sold on Creek land. The Oklahoma tax rate on cigarettes is $10.30 on a 10-pack carton. Under the agreement, Oklahoma will receive 50 percent of that tax rate from retail sales by the MCN.

See Compact - 2

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Sept. 1, 2012
Vol. 42, Issue 17
"Otowoskuce"
Little Chestnut Month

Mvskoke Hall of Fame nominations due Sept. 15

Media Release
MCN Tourism & Recreation

TULSA — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation will host the inaugural MVSKOKE Hall of Fame Induction Gala Oct. 11 at the River Spirit Event Center in Tulsa, Okla., from 6 - 9 p.m.

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1. Arts - for endeavors which enhance and support artistic/cultural life and well-being;

2. Business/ Professional - for entrepreneurial activity, or pursuit of a specific profession and advancement of that profession,

See Fame - 3

'12 sees 12 NAJA awards for Mvskoke Media

Media Release
Mvskoke Media Staff

LAS VEGAS — Members of Mvskoke Media collected 12 awards at the 2012 Native American Journalists Association Media Awards as part of the annual conference Aug. 1-4 in Las Vegas.

Individual staff members received awards for their efforts in print and video.

Jason Salsman, host of "Native News Today," won first place for best television news story.

Salsman said the award provides more recognition for issues in Indian Country through NNT.

"The award is another platform for us to share what we're doing with other people. It's nice to be recognized because it's a chance to share what we're trying to do with the show itself, with a lot of other people who wouldn't have access to it otherwise," he said.

Mvskoke Media/Tyler Roberds

Members of Mvskoke Media including Muscogee Nation News and Native News Today won 12 awards from the Native American Journalists Association.

The Muscogee Nation News placed in several categories in Division IV and won second place for best layout and general excellence.

Gary Fife won four awards including third place for best feature photo, first place for best column, second place for best news story and second place for best television news story.

Darren DeLaune won two awards including first and second place for best sports story.

Gerald Wofford won two awards including first place for best feature story and first place for best feature photo.

Former MNN Reporter Lee Longhorn won first place for best news story.

MNN Editor Rebecca Landsberry said these awards challenge the editorial staff to continue improving their craft.

"I'm so proud of the staff we have here and the publication that we put out. There are always improvements to make but we'll always strive to be the best. From layout and design to coverage, all these elements come together twice a month and we hope people enjoy the work we do. Everyone chips in to make the Muscogee Nation News an award-winning publication year after year and I couldn't be happier," she said.

Mvskoke Media Manager Christina Good Voice said the awards are a great indicator of what the staff is capable of.

See NAJA - 2

MvskokeMedia

Muscogee Nation News Staff

Manager
Christina Good Voice

Editor
Rebecca Landsberry

Editorial Assistant
Gary Fife

Reporter
Sterling Cosper

Sports Writer
Darren DeLaune

Feature Writer
Gerald Wofford

Circulation
Wilma Lewis

The **Muscogee Nation News** is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Its purpose is to meet the needs of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to The Muscogee Nation News unless other copyrights are shown.

Editorial statements appearing in The **Muscogee Nation News**, guest columns and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of The Muscogee Nation News, its advisors or the tribal administration and are subject to editorial discretion.

Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Please contact our office for deadline of submissions to be considered for inclusion. The **Muscogee Nation News** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate The **Muscogee Nation News** in any regard.

The **Muscogee Nation News** is mailed from Stigler, Okla., to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

To submit a change of address or a letter to the editor, call (918) 732-7720 or send e-mail to: wlewis@mcn-nsn.gov

NAJA

Members of the Native American Journalists Association

NAJA

Continued from Page 1

"The Muscogee Nation News and "Native News Today" news teams work hard every day to cover events and news for the citizens of the Muscogee Nation," Good Voice said. "With the addition of a few new staff members this year, we've set a goal to sweep the NAJA awards in our division next year as we continue to increase our presence in the Nation and expand our coverage."

The conference was part of the alliance activities during the UNITY 2012 Convention Aug. 1-4 at Mandalay Bay Hotel and Casino. UNITY: Journalists, Inc. is a coalition of the four alliances, the Asian American Journalists Association, the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, the Native American Journalists Association and the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association.

MCN Division of Health Director featured on Mvskoke Radio

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Health Director Seneca Smith tackles call-in questions on hour-long Mvskoke Radio

MNN/Gerald Wofford

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Health Director Seneca Smith (pictured at left) was featured on the hour-long call-in edition of Mvskoke Radio on KOKL AM 1240 in Okmulgee.

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — It was the turn of Muscogee (Creek) Nation Health Services Director, Seneca Smith to field questions on the Mvskoke Radio hour long call-in show on KOKL radio, Aug. 15. Hosts Gerald Wofford and Gary Fife and listeners questioned Smith on a number of subjects.

Q. Give us an overview of your department.

A. We currently have six facilities. We have a facility at Okemah, we have a clinic and a hospital. We have the Wetumka facility, we have the Okmulgee facility, we have the Eufaula facility, the Coweta facility, the Sapulpa facility and we also operate seven programs. We currently have the Elderly Nutrition Program, the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program, the Vocational Rehab program, the Tobacco program, the Community Health Representative (CHR) program, the Caregiver program, the Behavioral Health program—all fall under the Division of Health umbrella. We make up about 650 employees at the Division of Health (DoH).

Q. How many patients does your department deal with?

A. Our user population is about 32,000 that we have come through our system within our jurisdiction. We have 10,000 that come from outside our jurisdiction.

Q. Who and what is eligible for contract care?

A. We have in-house referrals and we have outside referral. Those (outside) referrals for secondary and tertiary care that our system does not currently provide, so we have an avenue for those services to be received. The eligible parties are any eligible Native American that is currently living within our contract service delivery area and you have to be a Native American of a federally recognized tribe.

Q. Are eligible medical problems for that program ranked from a 'life-threatening' situation on down?

A. Yes. We only have a certain amount of money that we are allotted from the Indian Health Service (IHS), our tribal council and a third party. We only have a certain amount to provide that service and we have a large population that needs that service. So, it is real important for us to establish some guidelines. If we do not establish guidelines, we could run out and have no money for anyone. There is a ranking system that we go by, but we try to take care of everyone. What happens is dependent on the money we have that week.

Q. Does the Elderly Nutrition program fall under the Health Department? How about the WIC program?

A. Both of those fall under the Division of Health.

Q. Tell us how you see the diabetes program evolve and change.

A. What we've done is move it around to different locations, for anyone who has not had the opportunity to attend, can do so in the future.

Q. How do you determine who is eligible for service at one of the clinics?

A. You have to be a member of a federally recognized tribe. Anyone who comes through the door, we do our best to try and take care of them and provide the best quality care possible.

Q. Is a non-native spouse or child eligible?

A. Not in our clinics.

Q. How has the implementation of the Urgent Care plan gone at the Okemah Hospital and if there are any expectations of the upcoming implementation at the Okmulgee clinic and if any changes or adjustments have been made as a result of their findings?

A. The Okemah facility, right now, due to some staffing problems, we have pushed that back to the second week of September. The Okmulgee Urgent Care facility, we hope to open up on the first of November.

Q. There were problems of communication between the staff at Okemah and upper level administrators here. Has that been corrected?

A. Yes, it's definitely been addressed. As you indicated, the facility was built in 1948 and there's some difficulties any time you're trying to update a system like that. We made it through a DMV accreditation that shows the level of quality and the effort. Since we've updated the facility and were able to get through the DMV process. We're now an accredited facility and the issues that were of concern before are no longer an issue. Being accredited, they make sure that you keep up with those standards. The staff down at Okemah are working very diligently to improve that system.

Q. Suicide prevention, is this a topic that's been just been recently addressed, or has it taken on more attention in the past few years. How has the DOH dealt with this?

A. Under our Behavioral Health program this is an issue that we currently deal with on a daily basis. We've just taken a stronger stance in making sure that we're providing our best care for those individuals that seek that attention. We've had opportunities for grants and we're currently under a grant that's helping us accomplish our goals and provide care for those individuals that are seeking that care.

Q. Is that assistance available at all the clinics?

A. Yes, we have the Behavioral Health program at all of our facilities. Any time there's an issue to that effect, the individual is directed to our Behavioral Health in that specific area.

Q. One of the comments we've heard in the waiting rooms has been about the waiting time. People say they've been waiting a long time. Perhaps, you could give us some insight there.

A. In my opinion, a two minute or three minute—that's too long. Currently our wait time, our patient cycle, we definitely want to make better. What we're doing the health leadership and the health administrator are working very hard to reduce those wait times, and how do we reduce those wait times. One, is being fully staffed in our medical staff, our providers. We going to have that accomplished in the second or third week of August. So, that has played a role in why our wait times have been the way they are. It's going to be the first time in a long time that we're going to have every position filled through the DoH. So, that's going to help out a lot and reduce those wait times. Instead of working with two or three providers, we're going to have five or six, depending on what location it is.

Right now, we're a complete system. Before, there were 'silos', where if you checked in at one facility and you were a patient at another, you had to be switched back and forth because your patient information was at one facility. So, now we're one facility and the patient's medical records are throughout the system, so it makes it easier to take care of that patient instead of shipping them back to another facility.

Q. We'd like to know more about the substance abuse program and what it offers.

A. This is a very good program that we have and it is offered through each of our facilities, whether or not you come in through a referral or on your own.

See Health - 3

Compact

Continued from Page 1

The document recognizes the right of the MCN to charge additional amounts based on its own determination of tax needs and allows for a five-year term for settlement of payments.

In past years, the state and tribe had been at odds over the tobacco issue. Oklahoma law enforcement officers had intercepted shipments of tobacco to Creek warehouses. Under this compact, both sides expect to put such confrontations in the past.

Tiger said it was better to discuss things between the two governments, "I believe so. I think anytime we can sit across the table to be able to do things like this, a lot of things end. With the support of the National Council in authorizing me to do this, I believe it says a lot about both governmental entities, state and tribal."

Fallin echoed those sentiments, "This is a new day, not only for the state of Oklahoma, but for the Creek Nation. We're proud today to be able to come to an agreement on this compact and allow the tribe and the state of Oklahoma to move forward so we can all be prosperous and move forward in better cooperation and relationships."

Esther Gee, Chair of the Okmulgee Indian Community, says the OIC smoke shop should turn more of a profit with the compact.

"I'm pleased. We have been paying our expenses. We will be able to sell for one or two dollars cheaper. We have a good inventory. Before our competitors up the street have been able to sell cheaper," Gee said.

Gee said, the community expects to advertise the new prices soon and take advantage of the compact's benefits. She had good words for the MCN legislature, "We appreciate the National Council for passing the bill on the compact."

The 33 tribally-operated smoke shops are located in the communities of Beggs, Bristow, Checotah, Duck Creek, Eufaula, Sand Springs, Glenpool, Holdenville, Drumwright, Coweta, Okmulgee, Muskogee, Cromwell, Okemah, Tulsa, Broken Arrow, Bixby, Haskell, Sapulpa, Twin Hills, Wagoner and Wetumka.

Health

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

It's something that we usually identify through the system. It's something that a lot of people don't want to admit, so we have to be very cautious on how we handle that…. we're here for the patients and to make sure they're heading in the right direction and that we get them taken care of.

Q. What about meth? It's been called the number one problem that we have to deal with?

A. That all falls under the substance abuse and the behavioral health and we get it to our substance abuse counselor that we have located in behavioral health.

Q. Why isn't your newsletter and all that information going out? What can we do to improve the line of communication between your division and the Creek people?

A. That has been identified and we do have Division of Health newsletter that we do submit once a month. We're trying to get that out to all the community centers and we're going to work hand in hand with the Public Relations Department to try and better disseminate that information out to the community.

Q. At one time about 10 or 12 years ago, they had a Health Board, someone that you could go to and for questions and answer and complaints. I have not heard anything about it. Do we have that still in operation?

A. We currently do not have a health board in place, but we do have an avenue in regards to patient concerns. We have a patient advocate and her name is Ann Edwards. She's been a great asset to the system. How we handle those patient concerns is that she receives them, goes through them, and she gets them to the correct person that needs to see them. We work together as a team to correct those concerns.

Q. I'd like to know about the CHR (Community Health Representative) program and how that helps Creek people as well.

A. They're Creek citizens that understand our elders, that understand our community and those individuals in those roles can reach others that others cannot. They do an excellent job. They're running all over, they'll be in Tulsa, Oklahoma City. They can do that two or three times a day. We utilize them in several different ways. We use them for medication pickup, transportation and they put on a lot of health fairs for us. They do blood pressure checks and they communicate events that are going on in the health system to our community and likewise, they bring concerns back to the health system. So, we are very fortunate to have those individuals as part of our system.

Q. We've seen complaints on social media that money was used for redecorating administrative offices instead of repairing health facilities. Has that been the case?

A. A lot of our facilities are in need of improvement and that includes some of our administrative offices. We do have patients and others that come in to these administrative offices, so it is also important that we have good conditions like we do in the facilities. We try not to put that over our facilities. Our facilities come first—our clinics, our patients, our patient supplies. Just like our clinics we do have patients that come in to the administrative offices and so we do like to have that presentable also.

Q. We'd like to touch on the vocational rehabilitation program too.

A. Vocational-rehab, which is located in Okemah, has been going strong for several years and we have one of the top vocational rehab programs in the nation. How that works is, we have individuals that help with job placement. There's a medical side to it. They work hand-in-hand with us and employers to make sure that they're able to land that individual a job.

Q. How do you deal with emergency situations? Say, someone has been in a car wreck and they have to go to a hospital in Tulsa for emergency care. Does the contract program cover that sort of thing?

A. Yes, we do have, if they're picked up in our ambulance, depending on where they're located and if they're native, we do try to get them to our hospital and if we need it, send them on to one of the larger hospitals.

Q. You've been on the job about a year, how has the job progressed?

A. It's been going well. We have a lot to cover. We have great employees and we have a direction that we're trying to go. It's very important to the staff and the Muscogee Creek citizens that we raise that bar and standard of care for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Health. We definitely want to be the system of choice for the patients.

Fame

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

or including the establishment and successful operation of a business;

3. Voluntary Service - for voluntary activities and dedication that benefit the immediate and global community;

4. Public Affairs - for public service in areas such as social advocacy, environmental protection, international affairs, political action or organized labor.

Nominations or selections to the MVSKOKE Hall of Fame are not restricted to these fields and individuals may be inducted for their accomplishments in more than one area.

NOMINATION PROCEDURE

At the beginning of each year a campaign is commenced to solicit nominations to the MVSKOKE Hall of Fame. Through a campaign conducted through local media and mailings to Muscogee (Creek) Nation communities, nominations are requested from any member of the Muscogee Nation.

Upon receipt of all nominations by the deadline of Sept. 15, all nominations are reviewed to ensure there is enough background information on the attached forms to include them in the list of nominations for the Selection Committee to consider. Nominators are also allowed to show up in person or with a delegation to state their case in front of the Selection Committee as to why their nominee is deserving of the MVSKOKE Hall of Fame Award.

The Selection Committee then chooses one individual. The Directors of the MVSKOKE Hall of Fame have agreed that there will be one award winner from each category. There will be four inductees each year.

When all nominations for the MVSKOKE Hall of Fame have been received and reviewed for proper documentation, they are distributed to the voting members. Subsequently a meeting is held to review all nominations and to develop a short list of nominees.

The inductee will receive a MVSKOKE Hall of Fame plaque and a portrait of them placed in the tribal complex.

Nominees who are not inducted but are selected as the second or third choices, by voting members of the MVSKOKE Hall of Fame are automatically nominated for the following year.

The event is black tie and traditional clothing gala. Sponsorship opportunities are available for this occasion.

For more information, please call 918-732-7992, or email tourism@muscogeenation-nsn.gov or visit www.themuscogeecreeknation.com

OIC 6th Annual
Fall Harvest Festival
2012
Friday, September 21
Feast ~ 5:30 P.M. and
Ceremonial Dance ~ 7:30 P.M.
Movie on the lawn ~ 6:00 P.M.
Bring blankets/chairs and enjoy watching the movie on our 2 story big screen TV.
Saturday, September 22
Parade ~ 10:00 A.M.
Closing date: September 17, 2012
Registration: 8:30 A.M. - 9:15 A.M.
Line up: 9:30 A.M.
(Church of Christ parking lot, 7th & Broadway)
Festival Events ~ 12:00 P.M.
Kiddie land ~ 12:00 P.M
3 inflatables, obstacle courses & carnival rides
Okemah Indian Community
Saturday, September 22
Outdoor Concert ~ 12:00 P.M.
Raz-N-Kane ~ 12:00 P.M.
Sweatin Bullets ~ 2:00 P.M.
Jason Young Band ~ 4:00 P.M. -
(Oklahoma's No. 1 Best live music)
Brian Hughes - 6:00 P.M.
Live CD debut: up for Male Vocalist in Oklahoma
Battle of the Bands ~ 8:00 P.M.
Golf Tournament, V-ball, Horseshoe, Basketball, and Softball will take place during the Festival food and merchandise vendors on location.
For more information, please call 918-623-9225

Mvskoke Film Festival entry deadline set for Sept. 14

Christina Good Voice
Mvskoke Media Manager

JENKS — The first annual Mvskoke Film Festival is calling for entries for the event, which will showcase the talents of Native filmmakers at the two-day festival Sept. 28 - 29.

Entries will be accepted until Sept. 14.

The festival will be held at Riverwalk Movies, 300 Riverwalk Terrace in Jenks, Okla.

"We are excited to bring this event to Tulsa and hope people really enjoy it," said Gerald Wofford, Mvskoke Film Festival co-coordinator.

The festival will have seven categories: Documentary, Feature, Animation, Comedy, Short (not to exceed 30 minutes) and Student Film. The student category be broken down into two sub-categories which include college/high school and youth.

"The student category will be high school and college individually," Wofford said.

A scholarship is also being created for both student categories, and will be awarded at an awards banquet the evening of Sept. 25. Winners of the festival entries will also be recognized at the banquet, which will be a 'red-carpet' style event for attendees. The awards ceremony will feature a guest speaker, meal and sneak previews of the film entries. Tickets are $15 for the all-inclusive ticket, which will get you into the banquet and both days of the film screenings, $10 for two-day screening ticket and $5 for a one-day ticket to the screenings. Those who enter films will receive two complimentary banquet tickets and two, two-day screening passes.

For the official list of rules, please visit muscogeenation-nsn.gov.

A $35 entry fee is required per entry for professional films, and a $10 entry fee is required for students per entry.

Entries must be submitted in DVD or Blu-ray Disc format.

For more information about the festival and awards banquet, contact co-coordinators Gerald Wofford at 918-732-7635 or gwofford@mcn-nsn.gov or Christina Good Voice at 918-732-7630 or cgoodvoice@mcn-nsn.gov.

New liaison aims to balance state and tribal concerns

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKLAHOMA CITY — After nearly a year's delay, Gov. Mary Fallin, has named an American Indian Liaison to replace the Indian Affairs Commission.

Jacque Secondine Hensley, a member of the Kaw Nation, began the task of serving as the governor's representative and as the conduit for tribal governmental concerns of the Oklahoma state tribes. In sizing up the job, Hensley said she'll probably want to break up the challenges, "It's pretty overwhelming. So, you have to take everything individually. It seems doable. I think a lot of people think that it's just me. There are two other people on my staff, one is a legal council that does my research."

The liaison position replaces the Indian Affairs Commission, which had over a dozen members. With nearly 40 federally recognized tribes, each with its own concerns and culture, Hensley will have a lot of tasks on her agenda she said those concerns will now get more attention. "It kind of elevates the status in that it's an executive position. I have the ear of the governor. I'm housed in the governor's office. I plan on meeting with the tribes and listening and coming back. I have the direct ear of the governor. I think that's a little bit different than the commission had. I think they did a wonderful job and I'm in very close contact with Barbara Warner, who was heading up that commission," Hensley said.

Because of the new position, Fallin's relationship with tribes should be enhanced, Hensley said, "Well, I think it was a good relationship at the beginning, but I think as a part of her office, now, I can go out and do the things that she doesn't have time to do. Me going out and talking to the tribes and making sure that their needs are heard by the governor, I think that was key for her. She does feel that the tribes and what their ideas and what they want, is very important."

Alex Weintz, the governor's press secretary, described Fallin's priorities, "The governors over arching agenda is bringing more jobs to the state….we want to work with the tribes whenever we can on all the issues. The tribes have an enormous economic footprint."

As for what Hensley sees on the horizon, it's the compacts between tribes and the state over tobacco, "I know there are quite a few compacts that are at the deadline to renew them and that's what's imminently important now."

With major cultural differences and priorities among Okla. tribes, Hensley recognizes it will be difficult to keep up with them. "Again," she said, "you have to look on it on a case-to-case basis and that's what I'm going to try to do. I'm going to go out to the tribes and try to hold a 'round table' discussion, so, hopefully, tribal councils and tribal members will talk to me. I can't get anything to the governor, unless I know what their needs are."

In a situation where the governor and tribal governments are at odds, Hensley said she would try to remain neutral and keep the flow of information moving, "My job is a liaison and I can't take either side, even though I do work for the governor and I know that she has the best interest of what tribes need. Now, I think communication is the key and I hope to be the conduit of that communication between the tribes and the governor."

The new liaison hopes to establish some regular form of communication between state and tribal governments and understands that there may be some rough spots in those relationships, "Not everyone is going to like me. I'm sure there's some people out there who are not. At the same time my job is to take all that information back and talk with the governor," she said.

Hensley graduated from Oklahoma State University and has a master's degree from Tulsa University. She has worked for the Department of Defense and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

MCN citizen completes bicycle tour benefiting cancer research

Photo submitted/Eleanor Irene VanBuskirk
Muscogee (Creek) citizen and cancer survivor Chasilee Crawford (center) with fellow riders from the Pelotonia bicycle tour.

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

COLUMBUS, Ohio — "It is the word you don't want to hear, the word that will bring you down to your knees," Muscogee (Creek) citizen Eleanor Irene VanBuskirk shared her feelings about her daughter Chasilee Crawford's diagnosis with thyroid cancer eight days after Crawford gave birth to her second child.

Now almost a decade later, Crawford has beaten cancer and is helping others with their fight by chasing down a cure through the Pelotonia bicycle tour. The Pelotonia tour is a cancer benefit, which provides funding to the Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center, Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute.

"It was my first year participating. I thought this would be a great way to give back to the medical community and help find a cure for cancer," Crawford said.

The Pelotonia tour is in its fourth year and has continued to grow. This year, the tour had over 6,000 participants and raised $10.5 million. The tour had around 5,000 participants and raised $8.8 million in 2011.

The tour is made up of several riding groups. Crawford, a member of the Village Riders group, completed a 100-mile leg of the tour and personally raised $1,905.

A portion of the funds raised by Crawford were donated through MCN National Council Amendment 12-157, which was sponsored by Rep. Kara Medina.

"It's just wonderful to see our Muscogee people giving back like that. I'm just very proud of her and what she's accomplished," Medina said.

Crawford expressed her gratitude toward Medina and the Council for their donation.

"If it wasn't for all of them I would still be pounding the pavement looking for donors," Crawford said.

Instead, all Crawford had to do was pound the pavement with her tires and the donations came in.

"I was really worried about joining the Pelotonia, I was worried about raising the money. My group mates kept telling me, 'If you want to ride just ride, the money will come,' and that's what happened," she said.

According to Crawford, an outpouring of thanks came as well.

"I didn't realize how important and fantastic it was until I was on my bike. People were cheering and carrying signs. There was a gentleman sitting along the road holding a sign and it said, 'Thank you for curing my wife,' " she said.

As a former hospice nurse, Crawford has not only experienced the effects of cancer, she's seen them as well. While she inspired many survivors with her story, she did not forget those who lost their life in the fight against cancer either. Crawford dedicated her ride this year to one of her patients who also suffered from thyroid cancer, but did not survive.

It is this first hand experience that continues to drive Crawford.

"I'm very proud of the fact that she would not let cancer beat her and that she went a step further by committing to help those who are still battling cancer to find a cure. She doesn't cry, she doesn't moan or look for pity; she fought back," VanBuskirk said.

Crawford said she plans to participate in the Pelotonia again in 2013 and has plans to participate in another bicycle tour pertinent to her own culture.

"Next year will be my 10-year anniversary. My goal for that is to continue riding and be the first Native American woman to do the Ocmulgee to Okmulgee tour," she said.

The first Ocmulgee to Okmulgee Trail of Tears bicycle tour took place in June and began at Ocmulgee National Park in Macon, Ga., and retraced the Muscogee (Creek) Trail of Tears to current the Creek capitol in Okmulgee, Okla. MCN citizen John Beaver who completed and helped facilitate this tour, in order to raise cultural awareness as well as fitness, shared his feelings about Crawford's plan.

"I think it's fantastic. It's great to know that this event continues to pick up causes. It has spun off in ways we haven't even anticipated and we're certainly happy about that," Beaver said.

Crawford also continues to roll on in her personal life. Having just graduated with her bachelor degree in nursing, she plans to continue to her charitable path by finding a position in community service.

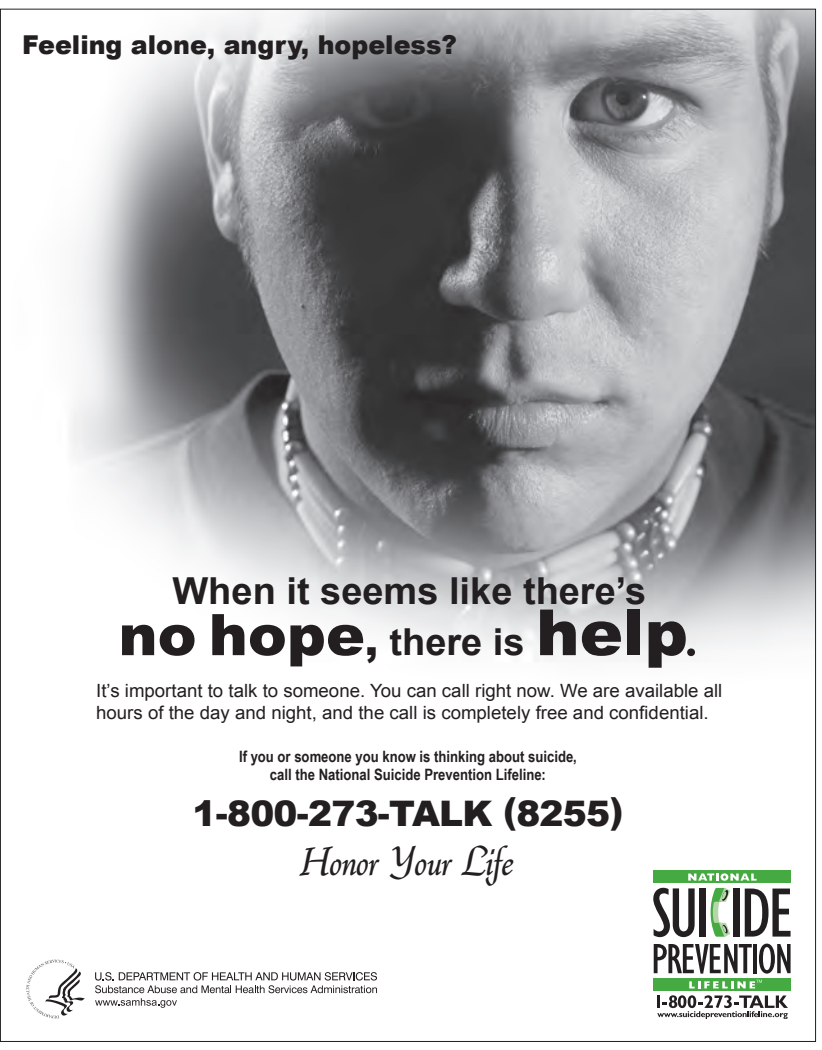
"I feel like this is the path that God has chosen for her," VanBuskirk said.

VanBuskirk may have fallen to her knees when she first heard of her daughter's diagnosis but now she's on them for a much more positive reason.

"It brings me down to my knees and I hold my hands up to the heavens and thank God because she is well and strong and because of what she's doing today," she said.

To go directly to Crawford's personal profile on the Pelotonia web page visit: https://www.mypelotonia.org/riders_profile.jsp?MemberID=195513&SearchStart=0&PAGING or go to www.mypelotonia.org

Type 'Crawford' in the search bar and click on Chasilee's profile in the results.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It's important to talk to someone. You can call right now. We are available all hours of the day and night, and the call is completely free and confidential.
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www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

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Cynthia Tainpeah
Muscogee Creek Nation

Creek embroidery business launched in Jenks

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

JENKS — It's a new business that aims to 'sew up' a spot in the market for professional embroidery work in the northeast Oklahoma area.

EmbroideryDesigns is owned by the Tulsa Creek Indian Community. It produces patches, shirts, caps and related products with custom designed artwork. The company offers quality work and apparel to tribes, sports teams, casinos and gift shops, and other prospective clients. The new business held its grand opening Aug. 11.

Carmen Tiger is business manager for the project. She has over 15 years of experience in the embroidery industry and understands the need for top-notch logo work, a goal they are striving for in the new venture.

The business is small right now, occupying two suites at 416 and 418 A East B St., in Jenks and currently employs five people.

Tiger has set her sights on larger targets. She hopes to develop corporations as the basic clientele, "We actually specialize in corporations and companies. We do smaller orders for individuals, as well, but our primary focus is to work with the tribal nations, the casinos, the military contracts, things of that sort."

EmbroideryDesigns, Tiger points out, can serve clients from start to finish. "We do design the logos, but we're also asked to come up with the designs for the gift shops as well. Like, for the Cherokee Nation, they will give me an idea of what they're looking for to sell for that season and I might come up with 10 designs for them to choose from. Then they'll decide which design they want and how many garments and how many sizes and colors for that whole season," Tiger said.

The company can reproduce the designs on a variety of garments, such as hats, jackets, T-shirts, socks and other things.

Tiger is proud of the fact that all their work is done in-house on their own machines and that they do not out-source the work. That enables the company to eliminate many 'middle-man' costs and offer competitive prices.

TCIC already runs the Riverside Smoke Shop and they chose the embroidery business as a way to diversify their income. It will occupy a needed niche in the Jenks area economy, because there is currently no other place to get such work done in their community.

To attract tribal business, the company is working to become Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) certified as an Indian company.

Currently, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation does not have a TERO ordinance.

MNN/Gary Fife
EmbroideryDesign Business manager Carmen Tiger displays their embroidery equipment at the shop located in Jenks, Okla.

Tiger aims to make EmbroideryDesigns a known entity in the specialty business,

"We want to be on the map in Oklahoma and be recognized as a premier provider of embroidery services. We want our work to be quality. Just us being recognized and everyone knowing we are here, we can take care of all their employees' needs as far as their company logo but also casinos, their gift shops, things like that. We just want to be recognized as quality and a good price as well."

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger was on hand for the ribbon-cutting and had words of encouragement for the TCIC enterprise,

"It's not only a brand new enterprise, but it's a new journey for Muscogee (Creek) Nation through one of its communities. I think it's great. I think that any time one of our communities can get involved on a local basis for economic development, that says a lot about the leadership of that community and the direction they're taking as far as business enterprise is concerned."

Carmen Tiger credits the Business Board of the Tulsa Creek Indian Community for the support, both financial and moral, that has been critical to bringing the project to fruition. She said they have put their heads together to make the plan a viable business, unrelated to the gaming industry.

Although starting up a business can be a time and resource consuming enterprise, Tiger said she would encourage any young person with a similar dream to pursue it but it is important to have someone to show you the way,

"I believe if somebody has an entrepreneurial spirit they should probably do it. But I think that they definitely need to take, or work with somebody that has done this before, or maybe has had several businesses that were successful. They really need guidance in that area. It's very important to have somebody, like a mentor to help you and to show you the ropes and teach you things."

The downside of such an effort is the amount of regulatory procedure and paperwork necessary to comply with appropriate laws,

"What I know is how crucial it is for this industry, even down to the taxes. You have to file your taxes, you've got to go get you sales tax permit, you've got to get a certificate. You need to go to the bank and fill out the paperwork as well, which requires them to have that certificate from Oklahoma or Creek Nation, if you're registered in Creek Nation. There's a lot of little things that you have to do. The most important thing is to have a strategy, a marketing strategy and a business plan."

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- papers, notes, "recipes"
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Creek woman named IICOT princess

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

TULSA — Julia Hayden Wakeford, 16, was crowned Princess of the Inter-Tribal Indian Club of Tulsa (IICOT), Aug. 17.

Wakeford is a junior at Jenks High School. She has lettered twice in Varsity Debate, a skill that was quite evident as she described her dedication to the IICOT club and this pow-wow, "I feel really excited. My family and me have been visiting the IICOT organization my entire life. I'm really excited to represent them. I've wanted to be their princess since I was a really little girl. "

Wakeford recognized that assuming the royalty position brought a lot of responsibility with it, "It is a lot of responsibility, but it's something, as a native woman, as a native girl, and as a part of my family, I've grown to know and I've always grown up with the responsibility of being presentable. So, that was part of the reason the organization chose me."

Being a Native American woman in such as position is not like being part of any other pageant in the country. "I think it's definitely different. Native women have a different sort of role in their community. As a princess, you get an opportunity to represent and show the world who we are as Native people. It's very specific to Native women, because men have to take on different roles in the community and I think, instead of being a setback for women, it's something more prominent in society and they have the ability to represent their Native people and women. They get to show their strength and their beauty at the same time. So, it's a bit different than the ideas we have about beauty queens."

She was wearing a buckskin dress that was a gift, but Wakeford said, her Creek and Euchee heritage was a very large part of her life, " Yes, I'm very active in my Creek tribe. My grandma is Ramona Mason and we always discuss the Creek. In fact, I'm very close with my Creek heritage and I love Creek history, but also Euchee is my home grounds. I'm an active member of Duck Creek ceremonial grounds. I was the first Euchee princess the year before last."

She has been a class officer and student council officer. She was the Native American Student Association Sophomore Representative, a member of Spanish Club, Drug Free Youth, Key Club, and President of the Young Democrats. She was awarded the Ten Year pin as a Girl Scout, where she has earned her Silver and Bronze Awards and is currently working on her Gold Award, the highest award for Girl Scouts.

Wakeford has held two other titles previously. She was princess for the Circle of Friends and SKINS New Year's Eve Pow-Wow and in 2010 she was crowned as the very first Euchee Tribal Princess. That same year she was won Middle School Student of the Year from the Mvskoke Women's Leadership Initiative.

She is the daughter of Marcy and O. Steven Wakeford, III of Jenks, Okla. A member of the Bear Clan, she was raised at the Duck Creek Ceremonial Ground and the Gray Horse District of the In- Lon-Ska. Her home church is Montesoma Indian Baptist. Her Mvskoke name is Tenhessehiyv, which means Friend Maker, given to her by her great-aunt, Norma Knight.

Wakeford has ambitious educational and career plans. She intends to attend college with a double major in Native American Studies and philosophy. After that, she hopes to continue into law school and work in the Native rights fields on the state and national levels.

She encourages other young Native women to participate in Native cultural activities such as pow-wow royalty competitions, "I definitely would. It not only opens the public's eyes to Native American culture, but it also opens you, yourself, to Native American culture."

MNN/Gary Fife
Julia Wakeford leads her Honor Dance after being crowned 2012 IICOT Princess.

Rain barrels conserve water and dollars

Submitted by Susumu Daniels
MCN Environmental Services

OKMULGEE — With the hot summer, the suffering is shared by everything. Pets, lawns and gardens are probably all seeing some signs of stress. With the cost of water increasing, the price of watering gardens could be going through the roof.

Water conservation is important to preserving the fresh water supply. There are many outdoor water-saving tips that can be utilized to help save on tap water use.

One way to conserve water is to use rain barrels or catchers to collect and store rainwater from rooftops for lawn and garden use. Rain barrels can also conserve water, help reduce water bills and reduce pollution by reducing stormwater runoff.

Water collected in a rain barrel would usually flow off the roof or through roof gutters and downspouts becoming stormwater runoff. Depending on where the home is located, this runoff can travel across paved surfaces and into a storm drain. Rain barrels can also be arranged to slowly release the collected rain water to areas that can soak up the water, reducing stormwater runoff and increasing groundwater recharge. Rain barrels can also be used to save water for plants during dry periods.

Rain barrels are inexpensive, easy to install and easy to maintain. Ready-made rain barrels can be purchased at local suppliers or online.

To keep garden produce safe, water collected in the rain barrel should be used with considerations. Water collected off a roof, from gutters and downspouts, is not considered to be "drinkable" or potable water. Remember, birds and animals are also on the roof. So, water from the roof can contain bacteria and other disease-causing organisms from bird and other animal waste that might be on the roof. How you use this water in your garden and the type of plants you use it on is an important consideration. Rain barrel water is fine if used to water lawns or non-edible plants that won't be consumed such as ornamental flowers.

Collected rainwater may also be used in vegetable gardens, but only in the same way that other non potable water is used. Gardeners should avoid using overhead irrigation. It is best to use this water for drip or trickle irrigation. This prevents contamination of edible aboveground plant parts that are hard to clean, especially leafy greens. However, the vegetable is not safe to eat unless it is thoroughly washed using "drinkable" water first. Rain barrel water should not be used close to harvest time to water the vegetable garden and should never be used to wash fruits or vegetable from the garden or orchard prior to consumption.

For more information or tips on rain barrels, contact Muscogee (Creek) Nation Environmental Services at 918-549-2578.

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Anderson ensures golf club is 'up to par'

MNBE CEO Woody Anderson shares his plans for the Okmulgee Golf Club

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter
Interview By: Jason Salsman/ Multimedia Supervisor

MNN/Gary Fife
The Okmulgee Golf Club is currently managed by Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise, which is developing a master plan for the facility.

OKMULGEE — "We're really excited to be given this challenge; this is a really unique piece of property with a lot of history," Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise (MNBE) CEO Woody Anderson said about being given oversight of the Okmulgee Golf Club, purchased by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation May 10.

Anderson shared MNBE's initial plans for the golf club.

"The main things we're looking at are getting the staff secured, cleaning up and establishing a master plan for the site. We're going to evaluate the course and have professionals come out here and take a look at how we can bring this place up," he said.

Anderson stated that once the club is up and running they plan to have a restaurant, bar and host various events like banquets and weddings.

"This facility needs to be able to continue to function and we need to make it even a better experience for everybody than before," he said.

He also shared some plans for the outdoor portion of the facility.

"We have an old pool out here that is inoperable. Our goal is to maybe have a new pool or waterpark put in," Anderson said.

Anderson also mentioned Principal Chief George Tiger's plan for possible veteran housing on the club grounds.

He emphasized the importance of developing branding for the club as part of this planning.

"What do we want to call this in the future?" he asked.

Anderson shared his high expectations for the club's future.

"What you want to do is invite anyone in here but especially our tribal citizens so that you have that club feeling. Something that people can access and make it first class, I can tell you that the expectation from the tribal leadership, as always, is first class," he said.

Anderson thanked Will Lowe with MCN Tourism and Recreation, Facilities Manager Bill Dowdy and his staff for assistance with the project as well as the National Council for providing funds to help MNBE through the initial phase of the project.

He expressed his gratitude for this assistance.

"The Creek Nation has really been able to put the resources behind this place," Anderson said.

California Muscogee (Creek) Association hosts annual gathering

Darren DeLaune
MNN Writer

ANAHEIM, Calif. – Representatives of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation attended the annual Gathering of the California Muscogee (Creek) Association (CMCA) at the Native American United Methodist Church in Anaheim Aug. 4.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger, members of his cabinet and the Executive Branch as well as representatives from the MCN National Council traveled from Oklahoma to represent the nation at this event.

Muscogee (Creek) citizens throughout California made the trip to Anaheim to meet the nation's delegates and learn more about what is taking place back in Oklahoma.

Ken Taylor, Board Member of the CMCA, gave an introduction on how the CMCA was formed into what it is today.

"To me, personally, it means a lot to have members of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation come out here to us," said Taylor. "It shows us that they care about us, and about our concerns. It also gives us out here a chance to meet the new Principal Chief, his staff. We finally get to put a name with the face."

George Windes, Board Member and Historian for the CMCA, helped with registration for the meeting and shared some of the tribe's history.

"It is very important for members of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to come out here and visit," Windes said. "Many families in the CMCA have been out here for decades. The only way we can keep our culture out here is to have a local organization, to bring people out here to share and remind us of our heritage. We can be Creeks in California, but still Creeks."

After a prayer and lunch, the meeting followed with Speaker of the National Council Sam Alexander and the introductions of representatives.

MNN/Darren DeLaune
Mvskoke language instructors taught youth and adult language classes at the annual California Muscogee (Creek) Association Gathering Aug. 4 in Anaheim.

"I am very happy to be out here with the California Muscogee (Creek) Association," Alexander said. "Anytime they call us and invite us out here, we should accommodate their wishes. They are Creeks just like us back in Oklahoma. It is also important that the members out here feel free to contact the National Council at anytime."

MCN departments such as Social Services, Higher Education, Mvskoke Language Department, Election Board and Citizenship assisted citizens.

Mvskoke Language Department employees Minnie Proctor and Gracine Hicks held two classes for youth and adults to learn the Mvskoke language.

"The class for the youth went really well," Proctor said. "For the short time that we had them, it turned out great."

"They were able to learn greetings, action words, numbers, and colors," Hicks said. "They learned to introduce themselves and with the little time that they had they learned pretty fast. If we could have stayed a little bit longer it would have worked out for them. They wanted more time to learn the language."

Tiger presented his semi-annual report for the Nation during his first six months. In the report, it showed the FY 2012 Comprehensive Budget of both revenues and expenditures. The report also took a look at the different departments throughout MCN as well as awards and accomplishments from individuals and departments.

"In my first six months, we have made many advances for out tribe to keep moving forward," Tiger said. "We wanted to show you what we have done and what we will continue to be doing in the future for our tribe. There is no, 'Creeks in Oklahoma' and 'Creeks here in California,' we are all one as the Muscogee (Creek) Nation."

Mvskoke hymns were sung to adjourn the meeting.

Creek athlete receives new prosthetic legs

Gerald Wofford
MNN Feature Writer

TULSA — Joe Martell III is a blessed young man. His father, Joe Martell, Jr., is a big reason why.

The elder Martel has always been involved with different sports while growing up in the Eufaula Boarding School. He knew the importance of growing up in an environment where sports and games were needed and simply how much fun they were to play. That's why, when he grew up and started a family with his wife, Kimberly, they anticipated the addition of children and how wonderful it would be to introduce and show their sons or daughters the world of sports.

Along came their first son, Joe Martel III. When he was born, they knew the introduction to the world of competitive games would take a different route because their son wasn't born with the use of two functioning legs. The young Martell was born without the use of a tibia, found in the ankle area in both legs, which is part of the support system of the lower extremities. Without it, the young Muscogee (Creek) would go through life not being able to walk properly.

The couple decided that at the young age of one and a half, they would have their son's legs amputated and immediately begin the process of teaching their child to walk with prosthetic legs.

This didn't hinder the Martels' wishes for their son to play and compete in any sport he choose. As he grew, the Martels could tell he would be an active child and Joe and Kimberly knew prosthetic legs were the answer.

Martel III is now 11-years-old and will turn 12 on Oct. 14 and is ready for football season to begin.

Since he was two, he has been fitted with eight different prosthetic legs. Each time there has been a different fit, due to his growth spurts, which have occurred at different ages.

On a hot Tuesday afternoon in August, Joe and son, along with younger sibling, Mekusapv, or as they sometimes call him 'Lil Red,' traveled to 'Specialty Prosthetics and Orthodics of Tulsa,' also called SPOT, to get Martel III fitted with his new prosthetics. Martel's physician, Dr. Mike Feener, will not only be changing his leg size to be congruent with his growing upper body, but will also fit Joe with a 'two-sprinter' or an activity leg for him to use in sports.

Martel III will also keep his regular legs, which he will use when not competing.

As Feener adjusted the two-sprinter with pliers and screwdrivers, Martel III let him know how they feel. They tested the legs in the front parking lot to see how quickly the young man could run and move in them. Martel III plans on being the linebacker for Beggs' sixth grade football team this year.

"I'm very pleased with the progress that Joe has made," says Feener. He sees how the world of prosthetics has evolved over the years. "People have been able to do so much more, especially over the last 10 years; we even have an athlete with prosthetic legs competing in the Olympics now."

Martell Jr., is pleased and thankful for the assistance from the tribe in helping his young son's dreams come true. "I want to thank Chief Tiger and the Muscogee (Creek) National Council in their assistance in helping my son get his new legs. You're helping him achieve a lot of goals in his life."

MNN/Rebecca Landsberry
Joe Martel, Jr., (left) and son Joe Martell III are pictured above at the National Council Quarterly Session in July. The National Council passed the legislation approving the funding for Martel's new set of prostetic legs.

Okemah Panthers look for great 2012 season

Darren DeLaune
MNN Sports Reporter

OKEMAH — Coach Joe Turner and the Okemah High School Panthers are finishing up a great pre-season. This football team wants to turn that into and even better 2012-2013 season.

Last season, the football team went 8-4 and loss in the second round of the playoffs to Lincoln Christian. To a lot of schools and teams in this state, that is a good season. Okemah knows that that was a good season and wants to build on that and be more successful for this year.

"Pre-season is going real good," Turner said. "Our numbers are up; we have a lot of depth compared to what we have the three previous years here since I have been coaching. We have a lot of respect from the other coaches in our district. They are picking us to win District 2A-5 this season."

Another thing about this football team is that there are a lot of Native Americans on this roster. At least 90 percent of this team is Native and the entire offensive line is Muscogee (Creek).

"We have a lot of starters returning for us," said Turner. "Seven starters on both offense and defense are coming back for this year. Of the 11 on offense, 10 are Native American and the same for defense. Of the 11 on defense, nine are Native American."

Turner feels their running game will take them to victory this season.

"How our offense is played is no secret," Turner said. "We want to run the football. We want to play smash-mouth football. What helps with that is we also throw the football and we throw the football effectively. And having that game on the ground will open up the passing game for us. When we throw the ball we have guys wide open because so many teams are worried about our run game."

MNN/Darren DeLaune
Coach Joe Turner and the Okemah Panthers Football Team are gearing up for a deep play-off run.

The same goes with defense.

"For defense we run the 4-4," Turner said. "That is our main defense and we will change it up depending on how the other team's offense looks, but the 4-4 is what we use. Our conditioning is our pursuit drill. We do not run sprints just to run sprints. We use this drill to get this defense ready. How we run this drill in practice is how we will run it in the games."

Derek Garcia is a junior and plays middle linebacker for the Panthers and he knows his team and himself will be ready for the games on Friday nights.

"I play middle linebacker for this team," Garcia said. "It feels great being out there at every moment. Seeing all the action, making plays, and being out there with my teammates."

The Panthers play with pride but had to learn that games are more than the first half.

"Before I came here to Okemah," Turner said. "I talked to other coaches that have played them and they told me that these kids here are tough. The first half they will play hard and give you everything they got. The second half is when everything went south. That mentality needed to change. In any game, for any sport you have to give it everything you have for that whole game. Not a quarter, not a half, the whole game."

Turner knows they are taking that step in the right direction. Everyone wants to succeed so he feels that everyone has the same goals.

"The 12 years before I came here to Okemah we were 24-96 and football was not going anywhere," said Turner. "In the last three years we have turned that to 21-12. Because everyone from the coaches and players wants to win and knows what it takes to win. We thrive on discipline. We play hard and the kids know they need to play hard or they will not be out on that field on Friday nights."

This team knows what is in front of them.

"This is going to be a great season," Garcia said. "We want to win our district, but I think we can go farther and go to state," he said.

The first test for this season will be a big one as they take on Tahlequah-Sequoyah.

Longacre returns to Hard Rock Casino Sept. 21

Darren DeLaune
MNN Sports Reporter

TULSA — "Jab, straight, knee, straight, hook and kick," says Longacre. "Next, do 10 pushups and repeat for two minutes."

These are some of the combinations that students go through taking a Thunderkick Fitness cardio kickboxing class. This one-hour session is a grueling test of strength, cardio and stamina. When their physical strength is expended, mental toughness takes over.

Cardio kickboxing is one of the training sessions that Thunderkick Fitness offers. The gym also offers beginning and advanced mixed martial arts (MMA) as well as karate classes.

"The gym is going good, real good," Longacre said. "Every month it keeps getting bigger and bigger. One great thing about my gym is that it is very family-oriented. We have a great family environment. Everybody welcomes everyone and motivates everyone. Just like brothers and sisters."

World champion kickboxer Thomas "Thunderkick" Longacre owns the gym Thunderkick Fitness and it is also the training site for Longacre as he is preparing for his Sept. 21 fight at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Catoosa.

"We are starting the training camp to get myself ready for this fight," Longacre said. "It has been about a year since people have saw me fight last. During that time, I was able to get my gym going, promote my gym, now that that is going great, I've been itching to return to the ring to showcase my talents and to show the people what they have been waiting a while to see."

Photo submitted/Thomas Longacre
Thomas "Thunderkick" Longacre will face Marcio Navarro Sept. 21 at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Catoosa.

Longacre explained the training that goes along with his camp.

"Usually, my training camp will last about eight weeks," Longacre said. "Each week I will be turning the intensity up, as it gets closer to fight night. I'm excited about it. I have the 'eye of the tiger' again."

Longacre said training is tough but required.

"Every fighter hates the road [training] to a fight," Longacre said. "It is a long, grueling road to take. That is what makes you better. That is what makes you stronger and more disciplined. There are a lot of sacrifices that a fighter makes in getting ready."

Longacre is very proud of the support he gets from the American Indian community for his gym and his upcoming fight.

"With the gym opening, there are a lot more people who get to see me in person," Longacre said. "Especially from the Creeks. A lot more have come out to my gym and become members and support someone that is a member of their tribe and that is their own. I love fighting for my fans. I love fighting for my people. I love putting on a great show and letting them see my fighting skills."

Longacre admits that there are obstacles that come with getting ready for his fight but knows that he will make the best of the situation.

"There are obstacles in front of me," Longacre said. "I think they are great obstacles. I'm a teacher, instructor, mentor, role model, business owner and fighter. And not only with the classes, I have this fight coming up. I have to find balance with everything. It is non-stop. I always have something to do. When I am training, I cannot worry about my classes. The same with classes, I cannot worry about my training or my fight."

Longacre said is that he will give all his fans 100 percent and leave it all in the ring.

"You are only going to be good as you train to be," Longacre said. "I am training to be the best for this fight. Get ready for Sept. 21 at the Hard Rock Casino. I am going to give you all the best that I have been training for in this fight. You are going to see the best Thomas "Thunderkick" Longacre."

Longacre (28-0) will face Marcio Navarro (24-0).

Community Calendar September 2012

Marshall family reunion Sept. 3

WETUMKA — The Lewis and Mandy Marshall Family Reunion will be Sept. 3, at the Wetumka Indian Baptist Church in Wetumka from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

A pot-luck meal will be served and attendees are encouraged to contribute. There will be door prizes for adults and prizes for children's' games.

For more information, contact Pauline Levi at 405-737-0174 or Rosalee Marshall at 405-683-2101.

Mvskoke language classes offered beginning Sept. 4

OKMULGEE — Muscogee (Creek) Nation is offering a free Mvskoke language class beginning Sept. 4, 2012 at the Dept. of Education and Training Conference Room every Tuesday and Thursday from 12 - 1 p.m.

For more information, please call 918-732-7646.

Oklahoma City Indian Community to elect officers Sept. 4

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma City Muscogee (Creek) Association (OCMA) will elect officers Sept. 4 for the following positions: chairperson, vice-chairperson, treasurer, secretary, member-at-large and sergeant-at-arms.

Prospective nominees must be a member of the OCMA community and must be an enrolled Creek citizen.

The election is set for Sept. 4 at the OCMA office during the regularly scheduled meeting at 7 p.m. The OCMA office is located at 1500 NE 4th, St.. 104, in Oklahoma City.

For more information, contact the OCMA office at 405-605-2621.

Morris Indian Community to elect officers Sept. 6

MORRIS — The Morris Indian Community will elect officers Sept. 6, 2012 for Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and Sergeant at Arms at Trinity Baptist Church during the regularly scheduled meeting at 7 p.m.

The term of office shall be for a period of two years beginning Oct. 1 and ending Sept. 30.

For more information, contact Lizanne Holata at 918-319-0406 or Billy Jack Wilson at 918-752-7195

Many Springs Baptist to host Lakeside Trio Sept. 8

HOLDENVILLE — The gospel singing group, Lakeside Trio, from Holdenville will be celebrating 50 years Sept. 8 at Many Springs Baptist Church.

An Indian taco dinner will be served from 5 - 6 p.m., and a concert will begin at 7 p.m.

The church is located five miles south of Holdenville on Hwy 48 on the east side of Holdenville Lake.

Emcees will be Herb Billy and Wayne Harjo. For more information, call 918-759-8831 or 405-379-7264.

Benefit sale at Duck Creek Ranch Sept. 8

DUCK CREEK — A garage and food sale will be held at the Duck Creek Community Ranch Sept. 8 beginning at 8 a.m. at 3890 Hwy 75 (South of Duck Creek Casino) in Beggs.

There is a $10 set-up fee for garage sale items. Hamburgers, hotdogs, chips, drinks and desserts will be available at the food sale.

Proceeds will benefit Miss Euchee 2011-2012 Janna Rolland for travel expenses.

For more information, contact Jacqueline Rolland at 918-752-5300.

Eufaula to host Tulsa Shock practice Sept. 10

EUFAULA — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation will host a Tulsa Shock traveling practice at Eufaula Middle School gym Sept. 10 beginning at 5:30 p.m.

This event is free and open to the public.

MCN Senior Services meeting Sept. 10

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Senior Services department will host their monthly meeting Sept. 5 at 10 a.m., in the MCN National Council Chambers in the Mound Building.

On the agenda are representatives from the tribal TANF program and MCN Behavioral Health. Other items include upcoming events.

For more information, please contact Senior Services Manager David Dunson at 918-732-7699.

Okmulgee Indian Community to elect officers Sept. 10

OKMULGEE — The Okmulgee Indian Community will elect officers Sept. 10 for the following positions: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and Sergeant-at -Arms.

The election will be held at the OIC Community Building beginning at 6 p.m. For more information, please contact Ginni Hall at 918-752-0018.

Duck Creek Indian Community meeting set for Sept. 11

DUCK CREEK — The regularly scheduled Duck Creek Indian Community meeting set for Sept. 4 has been rescheduled to Sept. 11 beginning at 7 p.m.

For more information, please contact DCIC Secretary Vickie Tiger by email at dukck@beggstelco.net

Montesoma Baptist 125th anniversary Sept. 22

OKEMAH — Montesoma Indian Baptist Church will host its 125th Anniversary Celebration, Sept. 22-23 beginning at 5 p.m., Saturday. Festivities will continue with a service that evening at 7 p.m., and Sunday at 6 a.m. All are welcome.

For more information call 918-623-1811 or 918-623-9522.

Haikey Chapel Indian taco sale Sept. 22

TULSA — Haikey Chapel UMC will host an Indian taco sale Sept. 22 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Tacos will be $7.

The next Indian Taco sale will be Oct. 20 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Both sales will be at the church, located at 8805 E. 101st St., in Tulsa.

For more information, contact Sandra Chisholm at: sancrandall@yahoo.com

Glenpool Indian Community to host Open Market Oct. 6

GLENPOOL — The Glenpool Indian Community will host a fund-raising bazaar Oct. 6 at the GCIC Community Building from 7 a.m. - 2 p.m.

The event is open to the public and will feature items for barter, sale or trade including flea market, garden and Native American arts and crafts. A concession will be available as well as limited booth space on a first come first served basis.

For more information, contact Eleanor Irene VanBuskirk at 918-946-0077.

Resource Room now available in Wetumka

WETUMKA — A resource room is now available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., for job searches, resume and homework at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Southern Regional Office, located at 333 S. Washita in Wetumka.

For more information, contact Darleata Tiger or Natasha Harjo at 405-452-1101.

RIVER SPIRIT Casino
PRESENTS

SEPT 7 at 7 pm

Bill Engvall's trademark blue collar comedy routine promises a night of side-splitting laughter and fun!

After performing in the Blue Collar Comedy Tour with Jeff Foxworthy, Ron White and Larry the Cable Guy until 2006, Engvall recently released his ninth comedy album, *Aged and Confused*. He currently hosts "Country Fried Home Videos" on CMT and "Lingo" on the Game Show Network. Tickets $60, $75 & $90.

SEPT 21 at 7 pm

Attention, fight fans – get ready for some "heavy duty" MMA action as Tulsa's favorite "King of the Cage" returns!

This fist-pounding, feet-smashing extravaganza showcases top-rising local, national and international talent, including Tulsa's own Josh "The Beast" Bryant taking on current champ Sean Strickland for the Middleweight World Title! Also on the card are two heavyweight battles and an exciting women's MMA match-up! Tickets $35, $40 & $65. Card subject to change.

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OBITUARIES

GARRY EUGENE BERRYHILL, SR.

HECTORVILLE — Garry Eugene Berryhill, Sr., 65, departed from this life July 10, 2012, in his home at Hectorville Community.

He was born Oct. 3,1946, in Tulsa, to Juanita (Bighead) Berryhill and Neffie Grant Berryhill.

Garry was the Great-Great Grandson of Samuel Checotah, the first elected Chief of Creek Nation.

Garry attended schools in Sapulpa, Liberty Mounds, Sequoyah and Amarillo, Texas. At the age of 18, he joined the Navy and did his basic training in Florida. This began his 22 years of service to his country. He did nine tours in Vietnam and was stationed three years at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. His last station was in San Diego, Calif., where he was assigned to the Navy Seal Team Three. He was very proud to be a part of Seal Team Three. His ship was the USS Ranger. After retiring from the Navy he remained in California until 1991 when he returned to Oklahoma.

Garry was an intelligent man with many interests in life. He liked to read and he loved to cook. Another passion was entertaining children; he always had a big place in his heart for kids and animals. Before becoming disabled, he was the Manager of the Creek Nation Travel Plaza and prior to that he served as the Gaming Commissioner. He also worked as a Paralegal for many Attorneys in Tulsa and California.

Left to cherish his memories are one son, Garry Eugene Berryhill, Jr., and companion, Teresa, Tulsa; one sister, Geri Berryhill Johnson, and husband, Jimmy, Okmulgee; six cousins raised as his sisters and brothers, Gloria Jean Tulsa Ware, Genelle Tulsa Myer, Juanita "Pete" Tulsa Thompson, Kathy Tulsa; Johnny Tulsa, Anthony "Tony" Tulsa; one uncle, July "Grandpa" Tulsa and his beloved dog, "Blondi" Berryhill; many cousins and friends.

Funeral service was officiated by Rev. Alfred Berryhill July 13, 2012 at Pickett Chapel in Sapulpa, Okla. Burial was at Pleasantland Berryhill Family Cemetery in Okmulgee, Okla.

Bob was a veteran of the Army Air Corps, serving in the Pacific Theater as a gunner and flight engineer during World War II. He joined the service at the age of 21 and was honorably discharged at the age of 26.

Robert retired from Phillips Petroleum Company Refinery of Kansas City in 1982, where he worked as a refinery stillman. He was recognized for his 36 years of continuous and loyal service to Phillips Petroleum in September 1982. He also worked in the musician-stage hand union.

He was preceded in death by his mother and father; sister, Ruby Bernard; cousin, Lillian Freeman Thomas; three brothers, Woodrow, Joseph, and Carl Freeman; his wife of 38 years, Hepsey Berryhill; and their infant sons, Robin and Robert Freeman.

Robert is survived by his sons, Douglas Freeman and family of Sapulpa, Okla., Lee Freeman and family of Overland Park, Kansas, Vernon Freeman of Oklahoma City, Randall Freeman and family of Independence, Mo., and Max Freeman and family of Olathe, Kansas; his daughters, Freida Stober and family of Okmulgee, Anita Freeman and family of Okmulgee, Odette Freeman and family of Glenpool, Carla Hoehn and family of Lenexa, Kansas, Abigail Wasley and family of Winslow, Ariz., and Shannon Cocke and family of Lynchburg, Va.; 22 grandchildren, 24 great grandchildren and a host of nieces and nephews. He will be missed, never forgotten and forever loved.

Pallbearers were Eugene Freeman, Micco Freeman, Jason Stober, Nathan Freeman, Tonee Freeman, Luke Wasley, Matthew Wasley, Brandon Freeman, and Shane Freeman. Honorary Pallbearers were Roy Bear, Phillip Coon, Steven Long, Yarme Tarpaleche and Joseph "Jokie" Pope.

A graveside funeral service was held Aug. 10, 2012 at 11:30 a.m., at the Tallahasse Indian Methodist Church Cemetery on W. Celia Berryhill Road in Okmulgee with Rev. Alfred Berryhill and Sammy Chupco officiating.

Burial followed under the direction of Integrity Funeral Service of Henryetta.

Cards may be sent to: 1113 S. Alabama Street, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

ROBERT R. FREEMAN

OKMULGEE — Robert "Bob" Freeman, formerly of Shawnee, Kansas, passed away at his home in Okmulgee in the early morning hours of Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2012 at the age of 92.

He was born on March 30, 1920 in Edna, Oklahoma to Carlyle D. Freeman and Louvina Harjo Freeman. He was baptized at the age of 13 in the Montesoma Indian Baptist Church in Edna. He was educated at Nuyaka Indian Mission, Euchee Boarding School and Haskell Indian Boarding School in Lawrence, Kansas.

MARY HALL

OKMULGEE — Mary Ann Hall, a resident of Henryetta, passed away July 9, 2012 in Okmulgee, Okla., at the age of 42.

She was born Sept. 14, 1969 in Okemah, Okla., to Joe Allen Waybourn and Priscilla (Fish) Waybourn.

She attended the Church of Christ in Henryetta.

Mary is survived by her daughter, Mary Joe Hall, and fiancée Ethan Alexander Vierson of Henryetta, mother, Priscilla Waybourn of Okemah, four sisters: Loraine Waybourn of New York, Brenda Behlen of Texas, Lorene Fisher and husband Doug of Sapulpa and Retha Dodson of Okmulgee; the love of her life Brian David Hall of Afghanistan, nephews Tyler Phillips, James and Brian Behlen, nieces Rachel Pierce and Leeanna Dodson as well as a host of great nieces, nephews and other relatives and many friends.

Funeral services were held 2 p.m., July 16 at the Church of Christ with Rex Walcher officiating.

MONTE PRICE

JAY — Monte Lee Price, 39, a Jay, Okla., resident passed away July 29, 2012.

Monte was born Jan. 27, 1973 in Claremore, Okla., to Dorothy Summerfield Price and Danny Price. He was baptized in the Jay Tsa La Gi United Methodist Church. Monte was a 1991 graduate of Jay High School and was All-State in football in 1990. Monte was an outstanding athlete and excelled in football and track in Jay, Okla., and Albuquerque, N.M.

He was enrolled at the University of Oklahoma, where he was finishing his Bachelor's Degree.

Monte worked as Information Technology Systems Administrator for TAMKO Building Products in Joplin, Mo.

He loved being outdoors. Monte enjoyed hunting deer, gigging, fishing, boating and golf. Monte also enjoyed watching his daughter, Chloe, play basketball and run cross-country.

Monte is survived by his daughter, Chloe Price, of Jay, Okla.; mother Dorothy Summerfield, his father Danny Price and wife Sandy; brother, Jay J. Price of Adair, Okla.; his sister Raven Matlock and husband Will; paternal grandmother Melba Price; three uncles: Brad Price and wife Sandi, Roger Simmons and wife Janey of Sallisaw, Okla., and Eddie "Sunny" Summerfield and wife Alice of Muskogee, Okla., and aunt Anita Smith and husband Stanley of Tahlequah, Okla.

Monte is also survived by great aunt, Annie Mae O'Field; and nine cousins Levi Price, Meghan Hamby, Brian Smith, Adrienne Smith, Jana Smith, Gretchen Summerfield-Newman, Beau Simmons, Matt Simmons and Joseph Simmons.

Monte is preceded in death by his maternal grandparents Ed Summerfield and Mary Helen Summerfield and paternal grandfather Sammy Price

Funeral services were held at Mt. Hermon Church in Jay, Okla., at 1:30 p.m., Aug. 3, 2012. Interment followed at Duffield Cemetery.

A wake service was held at Worley Luginbuel Funeral Home Aug. 2.

Notes of encouragement may be left at www.honoringmemories.com

Services were under the direction of Worley-Luginbuel Funeral Home in Jay, Okla.

MARY LOUISE STREET

OKMULGEE — Mary Louise Street, 64, of Hitchita, Okla., passed away July 16, 2012 after surgery at Okmulgee Memorial Hospital.

She was born June 8, 1948 to Virgil and Mary (King) Street in Witchita, Kansas where she was raised and attended school.

Shortly after graduating high school, she moved to Hitchita, Okla., to care for her grandfather. In March of this year, she moved to Okmulgee's Elderly Indian Housing Community.

Mary was preceded in death by her father, Virgil H. Street, mother, Mary Street, and older brother, Victor J. Street. She is survived by her sister, Irene Pohl of Wichita, Kansas; three nieces, one nephew, 12 great-nephews, two great nieces and one great-great niece.

Other survivors include brother-in-law, John Pohl; sister-in-law, Susie Street and a host of other relatives.

Funeral services were held at Grave Creek Baptist Church in Hitchita, Okla., July 20, 2012 with Pastor Mitchell Taylor officiating.

Internment followed at the Grave Creek Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Dominic Villa, Lamont Villa, Joseph Rodriguez, Ron Johnson, Wayne Johnson and John Pohl. Honorary pallbearers were P.J. Smith and Alex Rodriguez.

ROBERT T. WOOD

WEWOKA — Robert "Tom" Wood of Sasakwa, Okla., went to be with his Lord and Savior, June 3, 2012 at his residence in Sasakwa, Okla., at the age of 72.

Robert was born Nov. 9, 1939 in Tahlequah, Okla., to the late Tom (Doxie) and Ollie (Harjo) Wood.

Robert married Joammie Burgess Nov. 4, 2004 in Konawa, Okla., and they made their home in Sasakwa then later moved to Spaulding, Okla. He was a proud member of the Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

He worked for OLG and Alford Propane as truck drive for 25 years before retiring. During his earlier years, he drove for Acker's Metal.

Robert became the deacon of Seminole Indian Baptist Church of Konawa. He was ordained by Revs. Willie Guient and George Harjochee and became pastor March 5, 2011. Robert also served as vice chairman for Seminole Nation Water Board.

Preceding Robert in death are his parents, daughter Olivia Webster, three sisters: Mary Lee Hoag, Louise Earls and Helen Hunt and two brothers George and Billy Scott.

Survivors include his wife Joammie Wood of the home, children, Julie Wood of Oklahoma City, Robert Wood Jr., of Tecumseh, Okla., Steve Wood, Maud, Okla., Wesley Roulston and wife Sherry of Newella, Okla., Theda Pogue and husband Chris of Biloxi, Miss.; 12 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren; sister Hepsey Harjo of Weleetka; a special angel Mattie Pogue and cousin Winn Harjo, a host of other relatives and friends.

A wake service was held June 5 at Stout-Phillips Funeral Home Chapel with Revs. Houston Tiger and Willie Quient officiating. A funeral service was held June 7, 2012 at Stout-Phillips Funeral Home Chapel with Revs. Jimsey Harjo and George Harjochee officiating. Burial was held at Oakwood Cemetery.

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Suicide Prevention Hope Walk set for Sept. 10

Media Release
MCN Behavioral Health

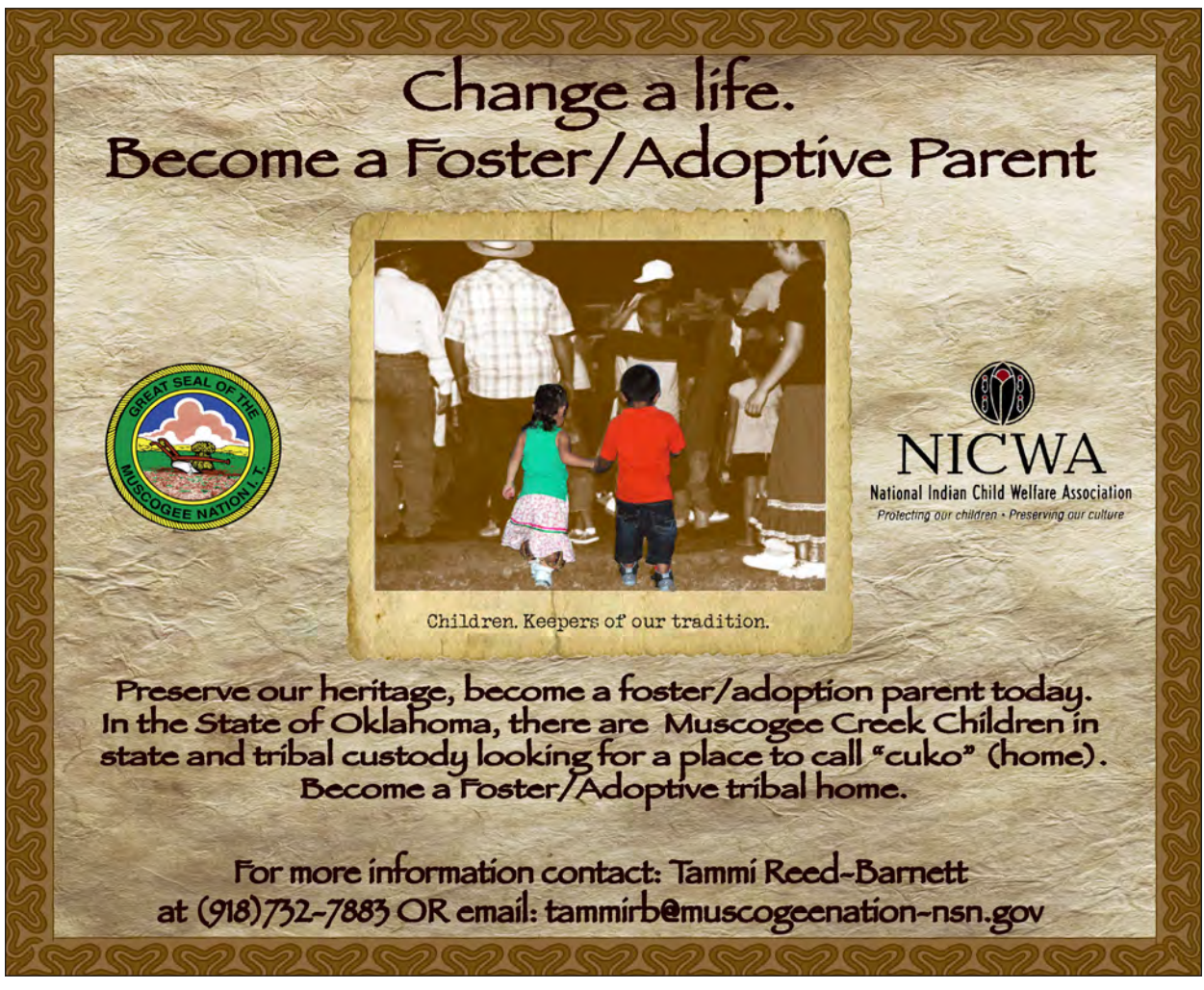
OKMULGEE — National Suicide Prevention Week 2012 is Sept. 9-15.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Behavioral Health Program has professional staff trained in the areas of suicide assessment, prevention, and intervention. MCN BHS can offer suicide prevention (QPR) and post-vention (connect) trainings to agencies, schools, and communities within the jurisdictional boundaries. The Behavioral Health Program can schedule training in these areas free of charge.

MCN Behavioral Health will be hosting a Hope/Remembrance Walk on Sept. 10. The walk will be from 4-6 p.m., at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee.

Registration will begin at 3:30 p.m. Guest speakers will tell their stories then participants will walk around the pond. A remembrance ceremony will follow.

For more detailed information, please contact Lindsley Harry at 918-224-9307 or Suzan Clark at 918-758-1930.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In the State of Oklahoma, there are Muscogee Creek Children in state and tribal custody looking for a place to call "cuko" (home).
Become a Foster/Adoptive tribal home.
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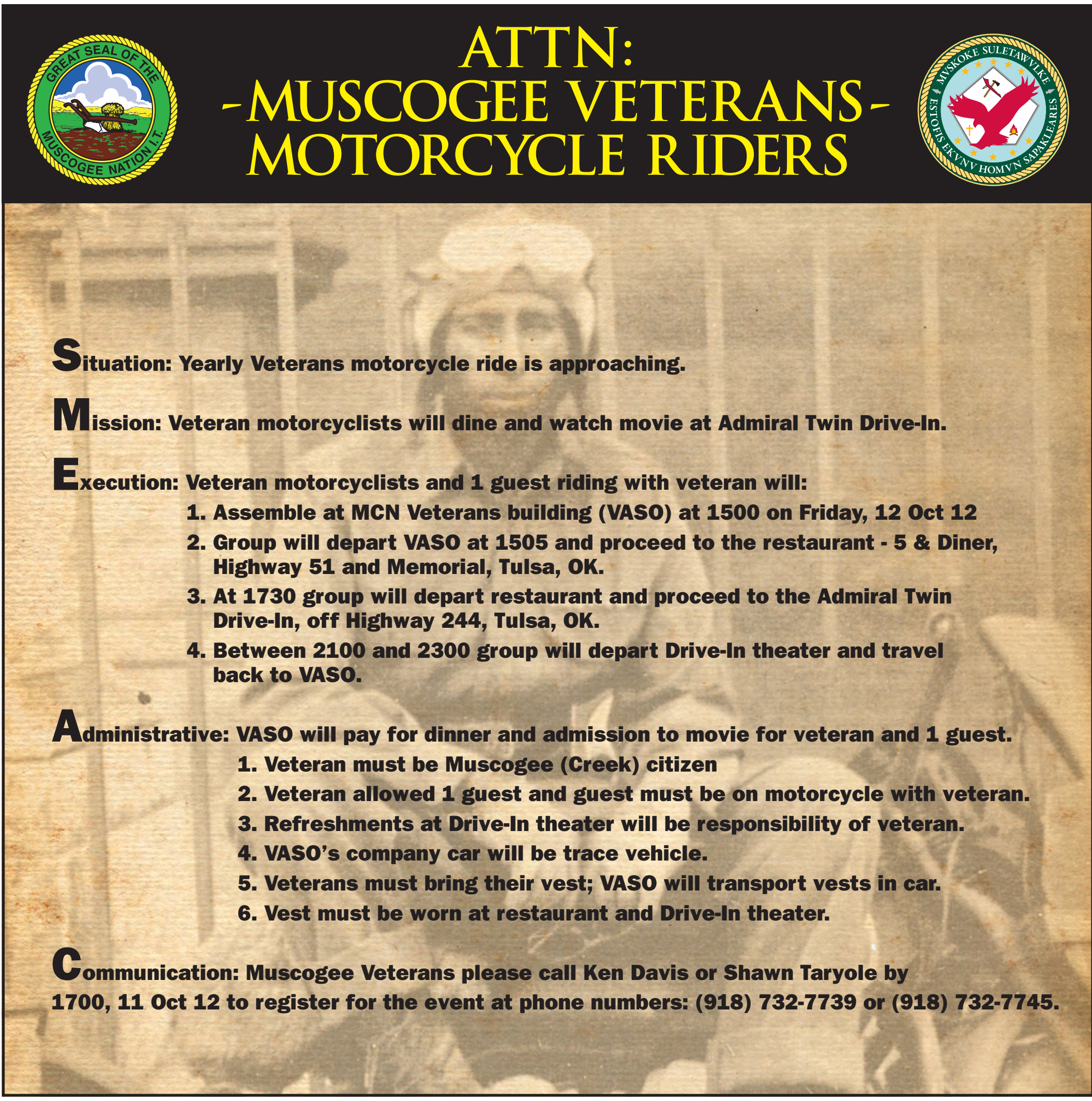
at (918)732-7883 OR email: tammirb@muscogeenation-nsn.gov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MOTORCYCLE RIDERS
GREAT SEAL OF THE MUSCOGEE NATION I.T.
MVSKOKE SULETAWVLKE
ESTOFIS EKVNV HOMVN SAPAKLEARES
Situation: Yearly Veterans motorcycle ride is approaching.
Mission: Veteran motorcyclists will dine and watch movie at Admiral Twin Drive-In.
Execution: Veteran motorcyclists and 1 guest riding with veteran will:
1. Assemble at MCN Veterans building (VASO) at 1500 on Friday, 12 Oct 12
2. Group will depart VASO at 1505 and proceed to the restaurant - 5 & Diner, Highway 51 and Memorial, Tulsa, OK.
3. At 1730 group will depart restaurant and proceed to the Admiral Twin Drive-In, off Highway 244, Tulsa, OK.
4. Between 2100 and 2300 group will depart Drive-In theater and travel back to VASO.
Administrative: VASO will pay for dinner and admission to movie for veteran and 1 guest.
1. Veteran must be Muscogee (Creek) citizen
2. Veteran allowed 1 guest and guest must be on motorcycle with veteran.
3. Refreshments at Drive-In theater will be responsibility of veteran.
4. VASO's company car will be trace vehicle.
5. Veterans must bring their vest; VASO will transport vests in car.
6. Vest must be worn at restaurant and Drive-In theater.
Communication: Muscogee Veterans please call Ken Davis or Shawn Taryole by 1700, 11 Oct 12 to register for the event at phone numbers: (918) 732-7739 or (918) 732-7745.

Social Services Elder AC Program available

Media Release
MCN Social Services

OKMULGEE — The air conditioner program provides window units for enrolled Creek citizens 60 years of age or older who have no air conditioning or existing air conditioning is inadequate.

Those under 60 years of age who suffer from or are otherwise prone to chronic illness are also eligible to apply. Both renters and homeowners may apply. Citizens are responsible for pick up and installation of air conditioners.

• Applicants must be enrolled Muscogee (Creek) tribal members

• At least one member of the household must be considered as vulnerable:

- Elder (60 years or older)

- Medically needy as determined by a qualified health practitioner

Required Documents

• Air Conditioner application (may be completed at office or downloaded from MCN website)

• Citizenship cards for all household members (CDIB cards not accepted)

• If medically needy, a statement from a medical doctor of medical necessity

• Notarized statement from a non-family member that the applicant's home has no air conditioner or existing air conditioner is inadequate

• Additional documents may be required based on individual circumstances.

For questions or additional information contact Social Services at 918-549-2445 or 1-800-482-1979.

Social Services Energy Assistance Program available

Media Release
MCN Social Services

OKMULGEE — Applications for the MCN Energy Assistance Program are now being processed. Applicants should submit a copy of the following documents required to determine eligibility:

LIHEAP Participants

• Current electric bill (must be in applicant and/or spouse's name)

• Citizenship card(s) or CDIB card(s) for all household members; if non-native, include driver's license or birth certificate

• Social Security card(s) for all household members

• Income or lack of income for all household members 18 years or older (check stub, unemployment benefits verification, and food stamp or commodities verification will be accepted)

•Written statement stating: I, __, authorize Creek Nation Social Services to sign my application on my behalf. I have not received assistance for my cooling bill from any other agency, community center, etc., within the past 12 months. Applicant must sign, date, and leave a phone number.

Tribal Energy Participants

• Current electric bill (must be in applicant and/or spouse's name)

• Citizenship card(s) for all household members; if non-native, include driver's license or birth certificate

• Social Security card(s) for all household members

• Written statement stating: I, __, authorize Creek Nation Social Services to sign my application on my behalf. Applicant must sign, date, and leave a phone number.

Once the applicant has received an approval letter, he/she will need to bring the approval letter to the office on any Friday in July to pick up their educational material bag.

For questions or additional information contact Social Services at 918-549-2445 or 1-800-482-1979.

School Clothing applications available through Oct. 26

Media Release
MCN Social Services

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation School Clothing Program 2012/2013, is now accepting applications until Oct. 26, 2012 at 5 p.m.

This program is open to all Muscogee (Creek) citizen students no matter where they live in the United States.

Call 918-549-2473 or toll free at 1-800-482-1979 for an application to be mailed or faxed directly.

All applications must be returned or mailed to: School Clothing Program, P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK. 74447.

Please do not fax or e-mail the applications.

For more information, contact the School Clothing Program at 918-549-2473 or toll free at 1-800-482-1979, ext. 2473.

Tribal Driveways Program now accepting applications

Media Release
MCN Tribal Driveways Program

OKMULGEE — The Tribal Driveways Program is accepting applications for repair of accessible driveways for property owners who reside within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation boundaries. Applicant must be enrolled with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation tribe.

Hours of operation are 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Friday. We are located on the Creek Nation Capitol Complex area between the Indian Health Service building and the old Head Start building in Okmulgee, Okla.

The Tribal Driveways Program addresses the needs of our Muscogee (Creek) Nation elders and tribal citizens that require services due to the poor condition of their private drives.

ELIGIBILITY: (Need copies)

1. Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizenship card

2. Warranty Deed (in Creek owner's name)

3. Oklahoma Driver's License or ID

4. Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizen will be limited to no more than one (1) service every four (4) years

Organization applications are also available for Muscogee (Creek) Nation ceremonial grounds, tribal towns, community centers, churches and when needed, family cemeteries that are within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation boundaries.

For more information or to request an application call 918-732-7651 or 1-800-482-1979.

MOVIE NIGHT!

ATTENTION: MUSCOGEE (CREEK) VETERANS

ALL BRANCHES

In Honor of Muscogee Veterans the VASO will be hosting

"MOVIE NIGHT"

(Friday, 19 October 2012)

• Showtime - 1900 Hrs.

Location - Veterans Building (MCN Complex)

Movie - "**THE LOST BATTALION"** (with Rick Schroder)

Drinks - Coke & Diet Coke (Free Of Charge) • Chow - Popcorn (Free Of Charge)

Smoking Lamp is Lit • Price of Admission - FREE (Adults only)

• Muscogee Veterans plus one adult guest

Any questions call Shawn Taryole at the MCN VASO (918) 732-7745

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Inside the MNN:

People - Creek potter creates culture and award-winning ceramics

Community Calendar - Native Made Art Festival set for Oct. 27 in Jenks

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Art - Page 8

Muscogee Nation News

Official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and a production of Mvskoke Media

Sixth annual MCN Diabetes Summit held in Okemah

Attendees learned to manage and prevent diabetes for themselves and their communities

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

OKEMAH — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Health hosted its sixth annual Citizens' Diabetes Awareness Summit at the First Baptist Church in Okemah Aug. 28.

MCN citizens attending this event learned about various lifestyle choices to help them manage and prevent diabetes for themselves and those in their communities.

The all-day event featured activities and information targeted at diabetes care and prevention. Kimberlee Little, Exercise Program Manager for the Eufaula Indian Community, gave further details about the activities held during the summit.

MNN/Sterling Cosper

Attendees of this year's diabetes summit participate in scheduled physical activities while others learn about diabetes prevention and management at various booths set up throughout the event.

"We had Zumba class today, a health screening going on if citizens needed to be screened on things like blood pressure or blood sugar. We'll have somebody speaking about our upcoming foot care program and we're going to have traditional food demonstrations so it's going to be a lot of fun," she said.

Several information booths from organizations were set up at the event to distribute information about diabetes care, including John Beaver who facilitated and participated in the Ocmulgee to Okmulgee Trail of Tears Bicycle Tour.

Beaver provided information about the tour and how cycling can be a great physical activity to manage and prevent diabetes.

"We think that the Ocmulgee to Okmulgee project is a natural fit with this event. We've already had people asking if they could be part of our tour so if we've inspired people to go exercise, that's great," Beaver said.

MCN Diabetes Program Manager Johnnie Brasuell emphasized the importance of the summit.

"They say that the clinic here only impacts 10 percent of the communities' health. An event like this is where health is really going to be impacted. This is where people are going to turn diabetes around because it is a lifestyle problem," Brasuell said.

'To know and be strong' has been the theme of each year's summit. According to Brasuell, the number of citizens who registered and participated in this year's event reflect that theme.

See Summit - 2

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Vol. 42, Issue 18
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Thompson responds to desecration of traditional Hickory Ground in Alabama

Mekko George Thompson releases statement opposing Poarch Band's casino construction

Media Release
Savehickoryground.com

HENRYETTA — My name is George Thompson; I have been the Oce Vpofa Mekko (Hickory Ground Chief) for 42 plus years. This is a lifetime position and it will be until the day I die.

It is not our character as Muscogee (Creek) people to express our customs, rituals and traditions to those outside. Things that have been passed down decades and decades stay deep within. So it is a rarity that I come to you to express myself. But I feel strongly about the subject at hand and I come to you with a heavy heart.

Mvskoke Media/Archives

Pictured above is Hickory Ground Mekko George Thompson speaking at the 2010 Council Oak ceremony in 2010 in Tulsa, Okla.

The mekkos before me were lifetime positions as well. It was only four chiefs ago that our people sat at our traditional ceremonial grounds in Wetumpka, Oce Vpofa (Hickory Ground) Ala. This was the beginning of our people and our traditional home. We are not rich in money, but we are rich in our knowledge and the language of who we truly are as Muscogee (Creek) citizens of Hickory Ground here in Oklahoma. These chiefs that came before me sat in their arbors, surrounding the fire, and taking medicine and participating in sacred ceremonies in Wetumpka, Ala.

Today, this sacred ceremonial ground and burial site have been disturbed and is a parking lot and hotel casino for the Poarch Band of Creeks in Alabama. In the process of building this casino expansion, the Poarch Band of Creek Indians dug up seven chiefs and 56 remains. This truly makes me sad.

See Hickory - 2

Sacred sites listening session set for Sept. 18 in Tulsa

Media Release
U.S. Department of the Interior

TULSA — The Obama Administration is currently conducting listening sessions intended to assist in developing policies that result in effective, comprehensive, and long-lasting federal protection of and tribal access to the places that are so important to the fabric and culture of tribal nations.

A listening session will be held Sept. 18 in Tulsa, Okla., to address the protection of sacred sites on federal lands. This session is the sixth in a series of listening sessions that have been held since the beginning of August.

Attendees should arrive early and bring identification to allow time for security clearance.

For those unable to attend any of these listening sessions, please send your input/suggestions by Sept. 21 via email to: consultation@bia.gov or the U.S. Department of the Interior, attn.: Mr. Dion Killsback, Counselor to the Assistant Secretary- Indian Affairs, 1849 C Street. NW, MS 4141-MIB, Washington, D.C. 20240 or call (202) 208-6939.

MvskokeMedia

Muscogee Nation News Staff

Manager
Christina Good Voice

Editor
Rebecca Landsberry

Editorial Assistant
Gary Fife

Reporter
Sterling Cosper

Sports Writer
Darren DeLaune

Feature Writer
Gerald Wofford

Circulation
Wilma Lewis

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Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Please contact our office for deadline of submissions to be considered for inclusion. The **Muscogee Nation News** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate The **Muscogee Nation News** in any regard.

The **Muscogee Nation News** is mailed from Stigler, Okla., to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

To submit a change of address or a letter to the editor, call (918) 732-7720 or send e-mail to: wlewis@mcn-nsn.gov

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Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative promotes "Healthy Lifestyles"

MNN/Gary Fife

Pictured above from left to right are Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Education and Policy Coordinator Rita Williams, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger and National Council Rep. Pearl Thomas. Tiger signed the "Healthy Lifestyles" legislation into law Sept.4.

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — A new three-year grant will enable the Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative (MFSI) program to launch a new "Healthy Lifestyles" project. Principal Chief George Tiger signed the measure into law Sept. 4.

Rita Williams, MFSI policy coordinator said the Robert Woods Johnson Foundation donated $250,000 to MFSI to enable them to promote healthy foods and lifestyles among Creek communities through a Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Food and Fitness Policy Council. The MCN Legislature approved a new law to enable the MFSI to accept the grant and put it into action. Their first annual state-wide policy council meeting has been scheduled for Sept. 21.

Williams said the Creek council has drawn interest from other tribes who would like to replicate their project. It's the local residents that are the main focus of the Healthy Foods initiative.

"One of the objectives is to reach into our grass roots communities through growing healthy foods and getting back to our agriculture." With changes in the weather patterns, such practices will become more and more important," she said.

"The way that the environment is, the climate change, it's forcing us to Mother Earth, once again."

With the rise in diet-related illnesses among Native Americans nationally, healthy changes in foods have become more necessary. "What with the diet-related diseases and the diabetes that we have, that's another way to combat. We're looking for the future for the nation to really focus in growing our own foods at an affordable price that our people can afford."

Oklahoma Tribal Food and Fitness Policy Symposium set for Sept. 21

Media Release
Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Food and Fitness Policy Council will be hosting the first Oklahoma Tribal Food and Fitness Policy Symposium Friday, Sept. 21 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The one-day symposium will address the four sacred elements of Native American beliefs: water, fire, earth and food. Some of the topics to be covered will include: living in times of drought, water resource management, how to purchase healthy foods when living on a low-income budget, costly food market prices due to nation-wide drought, combating childhood obesity, elders wisdom, preservation of foods and protecting our seeds, diabetes and physical exercise, natural disasters, teaching our youth, farmers and ranchers, tribal food sovereignty and tribal food policy councils.

The symposium will also have guest speakers, to be announced.

The meeting will take place at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Complex Mound Auditorium. There is no registration fee and lunch will be served. Those who plan on attending should RSVP no later than Sept. 17.

To RSVP for this event, contact the Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative at 918-756-5915.

For more information, contact Rita Williams, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Food and Fitness Policy Chair, at 918-759-1891 or via email at: rwilliams@mvskokefood.org or the Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative office at 918-756-5915.

Summit

Continued from Page 1

"I think we have about 335 that have registered this year. Last year we had about 260. The number of people that attended the planning session for this event only had about 17 people there and only five of them were staff, so it's all community people that planned this summit," Brasuell said.

According to Brasuell, this increase in community involvement shows an increase in the communities' confidence and commitment regarding their ability to combat diabetes.

"I think they're ready to start owning their own decisions about health and seeing that there needs to be a change not only in their own lives but what they can do as a community. People are beginning to know their own power with their own individual choices and how those choices can influence others," Brasuell said.

MCN citizen Jack Butler of the Tulsa Indian Community attended this event and is a first hand example of this empowerment. Butler, who was diagnosed with diabetes two years ago, has no intention of letting his condition get the better of him.

"I've grabbed this by the horns since I've been diagnosed because I watched my grandmother struggle. She lost her legs up to her knees and I ended up having to carry her around," Butler said.

Butler plans on managing his diabetes for his own grandchildren.

"I have a four-year-old grandson that needs my attention and I need his, so I need to stay on the up and up," he said.

Butler has already made great strides with his goal.

"I've lost 75 pounds in the last year," he said.

Brasuell shared her feelings about the communities' involvement in the success of this year's diabetes summit.

"They are showing themselves that they can make a difference and I think that's why I'm excited about this particular summit," she said.

Hickory

Continued from Page 2

The Poarch Band of Creek Indians claims that they are lineal (direct) descendants of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma. The Poarch Band of Creek Indians gained federal recognition as a Tribe by using this lineage to validate their claims as Indian people. When the United States government gave them federal recognition, they also gave them the Hickory Ground land in Wetumpka, Alabama as part of their reservation land.

The Poarch Band Creeks' claim in the 1980s that this property to be included in their reservation was valuable and that the Hickory Ground Creek people in Oklahoma would be pleased to know that their ancestral homeland in Alabama was being preserved. As Mekko of Hickory Ground in Oklahoma, if building a multimillion-dollar casino on top of our ceremonial grounds is the Poarch Band's way of preserving our ancestral home, then I don't want it to be preserved their way. My way of preserving this land is by leaving it alone and putting it back to its natural state. We are not opposed to the Poarch Band casino, or their parking lot. We are opposed to where it is being built.

I ask you to stand with us in stopping the destruction of our burial sites and sacred ceremonial ground. We do not want them to build on top of our people. They are digging up the last known cultural capital of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. This was our land until the United States government forced us to relocate to Oklahoma during the death marches in the 1830′ s, or what is more commonly known as The Trail of Tears. During the Trail of Tears, we lost thousands of our people along the way, but our people survived, and our fires kept burning and our ceremonies and traditional lifestyle stayed alive. I believe that the tears that ran down our face during this march was because we left our ceremonial grounds and our dead behind. We worried what would happen to them and would we ever be able to return to our ancestral lands. Little did we know at that time, that some 180 plus years later that our "brothers", the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, would dig up our dead for financial gain. The Hickory Ground people of Oklahoma have a new reason for tears to flow down our faces.

When the Poarch Band of Creeks became federally recognized, they promised to protect the historic and sacred Hickory Ground site. The Poarch Band of Creeks offered to build a "Memorial Garden and Interpretive Center" to honor Hickory Ground and the estimated 60 remains they had already dug up. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma did not agree with this plan. We do not publicize our dances or sell our medicine. We don't invite outsiders into our traditions so that our ways become a novelty that can be sold in a gift shop. Our tradition and our ancestors are not a tourist attraction.

We do not know of any Nation or group of people that condone digging up their relatives for financial gain. There is no custom or tradition that I am aware of where this would be acceptable. As the Oce Vpofa Mekko, I fight for our people because I have to face them someday when I die and I will have to explain to them how hard I fought to preserve their final resting place. When my spirit comes to face them, I do not want my spirit to walk through your casino to greet them.

To all the agencies, the men, women and children of all Nations, saying thank you for supporting this cause will never be enough. There are no words to express my feelings for your support in preserving this sacred site and burial ground. But for now, this is all that I can offer. To my people of Oce Vpofa (Hickory Ground), I will fight to protect our ancestors until the day I die, for I will have to see the traditional people of my sacred homeland one day.

I send this plea to all Indian Nations, all Nations of color and Nations throughout the world to stand with the Oce Vpofa (Hickory Ground) people and stop the Poarch Band of Creeks from further desecrating our sacred lands and implore them to return our ancestors and their burial objects, and our cultural items where they were taken from.

In closing, I would especially like to thank the people of Muscogee (Creek) Nation for keeping our ceremonies alive and well. Not only are we closing ceremonies for the winter with medicine now, but also with the "LITTLE BROTHER OF WAR."

Mvto (Thank You)

For more information please visit SaveHickoryGround.org

Results of August National Council regular session

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE — The following is a report of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council regular session held Aug. 25 in the Mound Building Auditorium in Okmulgee, Okla.

TR 12-104 authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a contract for the purchase of property located in Okmulgee County. Rep. Frank Coachman sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

TR 12-106 authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a license agreement with Intelligent Medical Objects Inc. Rep. Johnnie Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

TR 12-107 authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a contract for the purchase of property located in Okmulgee County. Rep. David Nichols sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

TR 12-108 approving beer sales at the Twin Hills Indian Community Convenience Store Plaza. Nichols sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

TR 12-110 promoting healthy lifestyles through physical activity and healthy food choices for all MCN departments and entities by encouraging and supporting the purchase of local fresh grown food, vegetables and fruits for the citizens of the MCN. Reps. Coachman, Lena Wind and Pearl Thomas sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

TR 12-111 authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a programmatic agreement concerning Section 106 review and Section 110 under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended and the management of historic properties on national forest lands in Arkansas and Oklahoma. Rep. Mark Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

TR 12-112 confirming the nomination of Robert Wallace Trepp for appointment to the Supreme Court of the MCN. Speaker Sam Alexander sponsored the resolution, which failed 7-9 with Reps. Wind, Thomas, Shirlene Ade, Eddie LaGrone, Thomas Yahola, Robert Hufft and Adam Jones voting in favor.

TR 12-113 confirming the nomination of Arlene Efurd to serve on the Gaming Operations Authority Board. Reps. David Hill and Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 10-6 with Reps. Jones, Thomas, Wind, Ade, Coachman and Dode Barnett voting against it.

TR 12-114 authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a memorandum of agreement with the United States of America through the Indian Health Service for Project OK 12-X52, which will provide water supply, wastewater disposal and plumbing for the Okfuskee Indian Community Building in Okfuskee County. Coachman, Wind and Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

TR 12-115 authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a contract with McGuire Brothers Construction Inc. for the paving of the MCN's recycling center. Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

TR 12-116 authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the MCN and Hughes County for improvements to the Holdenville housing project. Rep. Yahola sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

TR 12-117 authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the MCN, McIntosh County and the City of Eufaula for improvements to the High Street Project. Rep. Jones sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

TR 12-118 authorizing the Principal Chief to execute an escrow agreement for the purchase of land in Okmulgee County. Rep. Keeper Johnson sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

TR 12-119 authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the MCN and Creek County for improvements to the Polecat Ceremonial Grounds Roads Project. Hill, Alexander and Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

TR 12-121 authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a letter of intent with Margaritaville Holdings in relation to Phase II of the River Spirit Casino expansion. Hill, Ade, Hufft and Thomas sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

TR 12-122 authorizing the Principal Chief to begin negotiations for the MCN to enter into an alliance agreement with Tulsa County Public Facilities Authority (TCPFA) for TCPFA to cease horse racing and for naming rights to the exposition building known as the Quick Trip Center. Reps. Barnett and Thomas sponsored the resolution, which passed 16-0.

NCA 12-139 amending Muscogee (Creek) Nation Code Annotated (MCNCA) Title 16, Chapter 4, Section 4-106 entitled Lighthorse Chief and Section 4-108 entitled Deputy Chief of Police. Rep. Jones sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-2 with Nichols and Johnson voting against it.

NCA 12-149 amending MCNCA Title 36 Section 5-107 A., entitled Tax on Cigarettes. Hufft sponsored the amendment, which was postponed indefinitely by unanimous vote.

NCA 12-156 authorizing a supplemental appropriation of $65,515 to the Office of Child Care for the Wetumka Child Development Center Playground. Yahola sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

NCA 12-161 authorizing a donation of $40,000 to 4 Love of the Game Inc. Jones and Beaver sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

NCA 12-163 amending MCNCA Title 35, Chapter 10 entitled Muscogee (Creek) Nation Legal Services Citizen Department. Rep. Greene sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-3 with Hill, Nichols and Johnson voting against it.

NCA 12-164 authorizing a special appropriation of $3,020 to financially assist a Muscogee (Creek) citizen with medical equipment. Alexander sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

NCA 12-165 authorizing a donation of $7,000 to the Hughes County Free Fair Board. Ade and Yahola sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

NCA 12-166 authorizing a special appropriation of $2,500 to a Muscogee (Creek) citizen with travel expenses needed to obtain certification as a professional dance instructor. Rep. Kara Medina sponsored the amendment, which failed 6-10 with Randolph, Yahola, Coachman, LaGrone, Jones and Proctor voting in favor.

NCA 12-167 authorizing a special appropriation of $7,597.46 for the unpaid funeral expenses of a Muscogee (Creek) citizen. Medina sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

NCA 12-168 authorizing the expenditure of funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services for the College of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Johnson sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

NCA 12-169 authorizing a special appropriation of $918.59 to financially assist a Muscogee (Creek) student. Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

NCA 12-171 authorizing a special appropriation of $7,660 to Central Baptist Church for repairs. Ade and Wind sponsored the amendment, which passed 16-0.

NCA 12-174 repealing Chapter 1 of Title 16 entitled Organization of Executive Office of the Principal Chief and replacing it with a new Chapter 1 entitled The Organization for the Executive Office of the Principal Chief. Ade sponsored the amendment, which was postponed for one month 9-7.

NCA 12-175 authorizing a special appropriation of $11,140.65 to assist a Muscogee (Creek) student with college tuition. Wind sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-2 with LaGrone and Nichols voting against it.

NCA 12-179 authorizing an appropriation of $25,000 for tribal membership fees of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI). Rep. Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

Jones left the meeting after the vote on this amendment.

NCA 12-180 repealing NCA 12-070. Alexander and Hufft sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

NCA 12-181 amending MCNCA Title 16, Section 8-101 and 102 entitled Secretary of the Nation. Jones sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

NCA 12-182 authorizing a donation of $25,000 to the National Indian Education Association 2012 National Convention and Trade Show. Beaver and Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

NCA 12-183 authorizing a special appropriation of $1.5 million for the implementation of the tobacco tax compact between the MCN and the state of Oklahoma. Jones sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

NCA 12-184 amending MCNCA Title 21, Section 1-103, chapters 2-6, 8, 11 and Section 12-104 of the Gaming Code to create a three person gaming commission. Alexander and Hufft sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

Medina was absent.

MCN Public Relations seeks citizens for open casting call

Media Release
MCN Public Relations

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Public Relations Department is holding a casting call for all tribal citizens.

No prior experience is needed. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is adamant about publishing and promoting true Muscogee Creek talent.

Citizens of all ages, young and old are needed. The department will collect and identify each person and develop an archive to choose from.

Talent for video shoots for commercials, still photos for print media and actors for commercials or documentaries and public service announcements are needed.

Participants should provide the following: a current picture, a signed release for those under 18 years of age, or video of acting skills.

For those not able to supply these, a scheduled appointment can be made, which would include a photo shoot.

Submissions need not be professional, as these items are for record-keeping purposes only. A resume is helpful, but not necessary.

A registry at the Public Relations office in the MCN Administration Building will be available for those interested.

For more information, please contact MCN Public Relations at 918-732-7617.

Okemah Indian Community Fall Harvest Festival set for Sept. 21-22

Media Release
MCN Tourism & Recreation

OKEMAH — The Okemah Indian Community is hosting the 6th annual Fall Harvest Festival and bringing Native American tribes and the community together.

The festival will begin with a feast Friday evening at 5:30 p.m., Sept. 21 at the Pasture of Plenty.

A movie will be shown on a two-story big screen at dark. All are encouraged to bring chairs/blankets to the lawn for the showing.

A ceremonial dance will take place at 7 p.m., and the OCI Men's Basketball Tournament will begin at 8 p.m., in the old high school gymnasium.

For more information contact Vince at 918-623-7438 or OIC at 918-623-9227.

The Co-Ed Softball Tournament will begin Sept. 22 starting at 8 a.m., at the Okemah High School Softball Field. The entry fee for the softball tournament is $125 per team five girls/five guys (two in the outfield). Teams must provide own 44-core balls. The first eight teams to sign up will play seven innings or a one-hour time limit.

For more information contact Melissa Turner at 918-285-0928 or email at mturner@okemah.k12.ok.us

The Horseshoe Tournament will begin at 9 a.m., at the Pasture of Plenty. Entry fees for the Horseshoe Tournament are $10 for singles and $20 doubles. The first place singles will receive $100 and the second place singles will receive $50. The first place doubles will receive $200 and the second place doubles will receive $100. The OIC Golf Tournament also begins at 9 a.m., at the Okemah Golf Course.

Entry is $15/person (cart & green tee fees aren`t included) two-person scramble, men and ladies' longest drive. First place is $400, second place is $300 and third place is $200. Lunch will be served. The entry fee deadline for the tournament is Sept. 19.

The Fall Harvest Festival Parade will begin at 10 a.m. Registration will begin at 9:15 a.m., at the Church of Christ parking lot on 7th and Broadway. Lineup will begin 9:30 a.m. Entry deadline for the parade is Sept. 19.

All other festival events will begin at 12 noon at the Pasture of Plenty. Several musical acts will take part in the Outdoor Concert. Raz-N-Kane will play at noon. Sweatin' Bullets will perform at 2 p.m., and the Jason Young Band will take stage at 4 p.m. Brian Hughes will play at 6 p.m. The OIC Volleyball Tournament will begin at 1 p.m. Battle of the Bands will begin at 8 p.m.

Kiddie Land will open at noon with three inflatables, obstacle courses and carnival rides.

For more information about Fall Harvest Festival contact OIC at 918-623-9225 or 918-623-9227.

Mvskoke Radio call-in show to highlight Fort Mims Sept. 19

Gerald Wofford
Mvskoke Media

OKMULGEE — Tune in to the Sept.19 edition of Mvskoke Radio broadcast Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m., on KOKL AM 1240 in Okmulgee.

This month's hour-long program will highlight the recent Creek Battle Reenactment of Fort Mims Aug. 25 in Tensaw, Ala.

Interviews with Creek citizens Patricia McCullers and Ferris Powell will be featured as well as call-in questions or comments from listeners.

Gary Fife and Gerald Wofford host Mvskoke Radio every Wednesday. An archive of the program can be heard on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation website at www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov

Roberts contours Southeastern history in pottery form

Muscogee (Creek) potter uses traditional material, technique and designs to create award-winning ceramics

Rebecca Landsberry
MNN Editor

OKLAHOMA CITY — Muscogee (Creek) potter Scott Roberts has been getting his hands dirty with his art since he began creating clay plates for his sisters' tea parties as a young boy.

"I actually started when I was just a little kid. I'd make dishes for my sisters. I was the only boy and I had no one to tell me that they needed to be fired. They would go to put something in it and they [the dishes] would just melt," Roberts remembers.

Roberts still digs the blue-gray clay used for his work by hand from his childhood home near Wetumka, Okla.

"I'm going back now and using that very same clay and doing my art . . . I get some out by the lake and some southwest of Wetumka where I lived," Roberts said.

Roberts has studied anthropology and archaeology since the early 1970s where his serious interest in ceramics sparked. The colors and designs of the Southeast pieces he creates today reflect the traditional Mississippian pieces he studied then.

"I grind my own colors; they're basic colors: red, black and white and even the archaeologists have not been able to figure out the black, how they got the black with the red and while . . . I've figured it out," Roberts said.

Roberts began designing and creating his own pottery as a self-taught artist in 2005. He has won awards at Native American art shows across the U.S., including the annual Red Earth Festival in his hometown community of Oklahoma City where he placed in the traditional and contemporary pottery categories every year he's participated in the national competition.

He plans to teach a step-by-step pottery class in the coming months.

"I don't want to just have them doing a pinch pot. Everybody's been shown a pinch pot. I'd like to start from the ground up – letting them dig the clay, I'll show them how to process it, how to mix it, then building, then finishing and then firing," Roberts said.

According to his website, he conducts educational seminars on the traditional Southeastern art of the Mississippian Moundbuilders (600-1650 A.D.), ancestors of the Muscogee (Creek) people.

Roberts attends symposiums promoting the revitalization of Southeastern pottery but is disappointed at times in the lack of representation from the tribe. His goal of attending these events is to educate those around him about Muscogee (Creek) history and culture.

"No one from our tribe is ever there but all the other tribes are there. I went to one in Natchez, Miss., and by the time they all got through drawing their boundaries . . . we didn't exist," he recounted. "So I asked, 'Where are you guys fitting me in? I want you to know, we're all the way from Louisiana to the East Coast, so don't go marking off lines. There were no lines at that time.'"

According to Roberts, some Mississippian designs were borrowed and copied by other Southeastern tribes.

"We all traded with each other. We took designs from each other and we built on those designs," Roberts said.

Roberts believes it is important to keep culture alive by sharing his methods with Native and non-Native those interested in the art.

"I'd rather have it opened to anyone that's interested in my techniques . . . I'm 71-years-old and if I don't get these techniques passed on, it's gonna be lost," Roberts admits.

Roberts is a member of the Oklahoma City Muscogee (Creek) Association and is of the Turtle Clan.

For more information or to purchase pieces from Roberts' collection, visit: www.creekpotter.com

Photo submitted/Scott Roberts
The Oklahoma Democratic Party presented one of Scott Roberts' pieces (pictured) to U.S. President Barack Obama during his visit to Cushing, Okla.

Wapskineh helps Natives get fit through dance

Darren DeLaune
MNN Sports Writer

TAHLEQUAH — Tonya Wapskineh works an 8-5 job. But after work she gets to dance, jump and do something that she fell in love with more than a year and a half ago.

The 37-year-old Creek, Cherokee and Prairie Band Potawatomi is a Diabetes Prevention Coordinator with the Cherokee Nation and also volunteers as a Zumba instructor.

Zumba is a dance fitness program that was created by Beto Perez in the 1990s. It includes samba, salsa, merengue and belly dancing in the workouts.

"I fell in love with it [Zumba]," Wapskineh said. "Not only is it helping everyone who is participating in the program, but it is also helping me physically. I am always finding different ways to stay healthy and this keeps me moving and helps out a lot."

Wapskineh became a certified Zumba instructor in January 2011 and started teaching classes in March 2011.

"I was going home learning different routines. I was doing it around the clock. I started looking on YouTube and learning different things. It is a creative outlet and a great fun thing to do."

She also began using Zumba as part of her Diabetes Participation Program.

"Our participants wanted to try Zumba," Wapskineh said. "They enjoy every second that they are out there. It provides something for our community. With the classes that I do, I do a lot of different activities and different themes for our classes."

Zumba started in a small workout room in the CN Male Seminary Recreation Center. Its popularity in the community, combined with more members joining her classes required the class to relocate to the gym floor to accommodate the large class.

"When we started out we had about 15-20 people," Wapskineh said. "Then 25 and then we had 30 people. It was to the point we could not fit in that room so we moved to the gym and we took half the floor. Now, we are taking up the whole floor for my classes."

MNN/Darren DeLaune
Tonya Wapskineh instructs Zumba classes in Tahlequah, Okla., on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Wapskineh explains how Zumba is different from other types of aerobics programs.

"Zumba is a dance aspect while aerobics is very muscle-specific," Wapskineh said. "Such as step aerobics, you are working on the cardio but only working certain muscles."

Wapskineh has her own personal reasons for the love of this dance-crazed fitness.

"For me, it goes back to the love I have for dancing," said Wapskineh. "It is exhilarating. It has energy, fun and excitement; all of those things wrapped into one. I am addicted.

Wapskineh also talked firsthand about diabetes and how it can affect everyone when not leading a healthy lifestyle.

"I have seen what not taking care of yourself can do to you," Wapskineh said. "What it can do to your body and how it can affect others in your family. I want to teach my children so when they get older they will know how to lead a healthy life. I want to be a role model to other natives to show them the benefits of making changes to your diet and to your lifestyle."

She also explained that diabetes can be delayed or even prevented if that person can make lifestyle changes for the better.

"Diabetes can be prevented," said Wapskineh. "That is the message that I always try to share. A lot of natives think, 'It doesn't matter. I'm going to get diabetes anyway.' Well that's not the case. Yes, our genes are made a certain way and there is a possibility that even with a healthy lifestyle and by eating the right foods you can still get diabetes. You can always delay it and prevent diabetes."

Wapskineh said she feels everyone can use Zumba and benefit from the program. This is where her day job as a diabetes prevention coordinator ties in with her job as a Zumba instructor.

"We focus on our patients," Wapskineh said. "We have two goals that we want our patients to meet. We want them to exercise 150 minutes-worth a week. The other goal is for their nutrition and that is to reduce their fat gram intake. Zumba does provide that opportunity to get to their fitness goals."

Wapskineh's classes range from 80-100 people, with 120 participants in one class. Her participants' ages range from four-years-old to 73.

"Usually, I wouldn't let kids that small workout," Wapskineh said. "But they are right beside their parents and they are participating right along side everyone else. The oldest here, she is right there with everyone else moving and dancing."

Wapskineh teaches her class three times a week: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8 p.m., and Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m. For more information, visit http://www.facebook.com/zumbahotties

Tonya Wapskineh Profile

Hometown: Stillwater, Okla.
Resides: Tahlequah, Okla.
Age: 37
Family: Two sons
Tribes: Creek, Cherokee, Seminole, Prairie Band Potawatomi
Hobbies: Running, Music, Dancing, Kids Sports, Concerts and Golf
Role Models: Mom and dad
Top three workout songs: Release-Timbaland, Turbulence-Steve Aoki & Laidback Luke, and Move, Shake, and Drop-DJ Laz and Pitbull
Favorite healthy meal: Grilled shrimp, rice pilaf, grilled veggies
Favorite activity: Playing with her sons in kickball
Occupation: Diabetes Prevention Coordinator & Zumba Instructor

OCMCA elects 2012-2013 board

MNN/Rebecca Landsberry

The Oklahoma City Muscogee (Creek) Association elected officers during their monthly meeting Sept. 4 at the OCMCA office located at 1500 NE 4th St., in Oklahoma City. The 2012-2013 OCMCA Board of Directors is pictured from left to right: member Wendy Dunson, Secretary Carol Harley, Chair Teresa Gouge, Vice Chair Lucinda Myers, Treasurer Ona Fixico and members Ruby Harjo and Blue Clark.

EIC offers new programs for community members

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

EUFAULA — The Eufaula Indian Community (EIC) will implement several new community development programs with the start of their new fiscal year Oct. 1.

"Our community wants to move forward after our elections and getting our charter back," explained EIC Community Chairperson Julea Wilson.

Programs like Elder Pest Control and Pet Spay and Neutering are two examples of these unique community services that EIC will provide for its members.

The Pet Spay and Neutering Program will have 45 openings for dogs and cats brought in by EIC members during the first day. Everyone in the Eufaula community will be welcome to utilize this service the second day for a low cost.

Wilson hopes that the EIC will be able to sponsor more events like job and college fairs and open them to the entire Eufaula community.

"We're bridging that gap between the Eufaula Indian Community and the Eufaula community," she said.

The Elder Pest Control Program aims to protect the health of EIC elders by providing residential pest control.

"Pests can be both hard to manage and a more significant threat to our elders' health because of their advanced age," Wilson said.

Wilson emphasized that the EIC will provide any kind of assistance to the communities' elders.

"We know the Creek Nation provides other services like lawn care for them, but we want to add to those services because programs like the lawn care only have like three people to help everyone within the whole tribal jurisdiction," she said.

Other new programs such as the Ride to Work, High School Senior Incentive and Education, Art and Extra Curricular Activities Programs will also provide similar services to those already offered by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN).

However, the Education, Art and Extra Curricular Activities Program will require EIC members to have already exhausted the funding offered by the MCN program before they will be eligible.

Other EIC programs duplicating those provided by the MCN, such as light and heat assistance, will be eliminated.

"We will however, let them use our facilities here at the community center to get in touch with the Creek Nation so that they have the means to contact the programs there," Wilson said.

The EIC has made other changes as well. The building formerly known as the Eufaula Skate Zone will no longer be used as a skating rink.

"It was not making money as a business," said Wilson.

The facility is now called the EIC Event Center.

"We have already had Creek Nation socials here like the men's and women's health summits or when Behavioral Health Services hosted an ice cream social for our children," Wilson said.

Wilson hopes that the event center will be able to host more events like the ice cream social and pet spay and neutering program.

"In the future we are going to try and utilize that building for many more programs for our community members," she said.

Wilson believes that all of these recent changes are a sign of progress for the EIC.

"With our election back in April after the return of our charter, I believe that our community really spoke. They wanted to see change and a new path of progress. We want our community back," she said.

As the new community chairperson, Wilson wanted to be sure the credit for these changes is given to the EIC Community.

"If you want to thank someone for the changes we've made, don't thank me, thank the whole community, because they are the ones we work for," she said.

The Eufaula Indian Community will elect officers Sept. 27 from 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. For more information about the EIC contact their community center at 918-689-5066.

Tiger named president of MCN Bar Association

Media Release
MCN Bar Association

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Bar Association recently elected officers for the 2012-2013 term. The newly elected officers are: Yonne Tiger, President; Susan Arkeketa, Vice-President; and Greg Meier, Secretary-Treasurer.

Yonne Tiger currently serves as legal counsel for Principal Chief George Tiger and is a partner at Campbell & Tiger, PLLC.

Tiger previously worked as an Assistant Attorney General for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Justice and most recently as the In-House Counsel to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council.

Tiger's work at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation included litigation, research and writing, advice on protocol and parliamentarian procedures, and extensive code work through drafting legislation.

Prior to working for the Nation, Tiger worked in private practice. She received her law degree from the University of Kansas with a certificate in Tribal Lawyering. Tiger is a member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Susan Arkeketa serves as the Second Assistant Attorney General for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. She has over 35 years of experience working with Indian tribes and Indian organizations on state and national levels as an attorney, administrator, educator, media specialist, journalist, trainer, writer, and advocate. Ms. Arkeketa graduated from the University of Tulsa College of Law with certificates in Indian Law and Resources, Energy, and Environmental Law. She is Muscogee (Katcv Clan) and Otoe-Missouria (Che Clan).

Greg Meier, of Meier & Associates, has provided legal services across Oklahoma for almost forty years. Mr. Meier's general practice firm serves individuals, families and businesses, with the vast majority of his practice devoted to litigation. In addition to the Oklahoma Bar, Mr. Meier is admitted to practice before Muscogee (Creek) Nation courts, Cherokee Nation courts, the United States District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth and Tenth Circuits and the Supreme Court of the United States. Mr. Meier earned his law degree from the University of Oklahoma College of Law.

Congratulations to the new Muscogee (Creek) Nation Bar Association officers!

For information regarding how to apply for membership in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Bar Association or for a list of Muscogee (Creek) Nation Bar Association members, visit www.mcnbar.org

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Battle of Fort Mims remembered

Is Native perspective lacking at the reenactment in Alabama?

Gerald Wofford
MNN Feature Writer

TENSAW, Ala. — The 199th anniversary of the Battle of Fort Mims was reenacted Aug. 25 at historic Fort Mims in Alabama. The battle, which took place in the preserved military construction, was also staged Aug. 26. The site encompasses the quaint military outpost that once served the fledgling U.S. government during the war of 1812 as well as a shelter for American civilians building homes and obtaining business property in the area.

MNN/Gerald Wofford
The Battle of Fort Mims was reenacted in Tensaw, Ala., Aug. 25. Pictured above are actors portraying settlers preparing to battle with Creek warriors.

The battle is known as a key Muscogee (Creek) victory and was fought in retaliation of the U.S. government's previously broken treaties with the tribe after they made unsuccessful attempts to discuss the recent encroachment by white men upon the land.

MNN/Gerald Wofford
Actors portraying Creek warriors are utilized weapons of the era during the Battle of Fort Mims.

Spectators and tourists witnessed the reenactment and enjoyed a day of events including quilting, wool spinning, flint napping, woodcarving, black powder gun demonstrations, cuisine of the time, historic seminars, music from the era as well as an earlier battle leading to the attack at Fort Mims.

The 'Battle of Burnt Corn' was also reenacted on the west side of the Fort earlier in the day. Visitors were also given horse drawn carriage rides around the entire military encampment.

The battle reenactment began at 2 p.m. The crowd witnessed musket guns booming, bows and arrows flying, recreated battle fires, dramatic deaths, as well as hatchet fights taking place between veteran actors. People were caught by surprise that August day and saw their families killed, but also possessed a feeling of triumph when an authority would not honor their word.

Different groups throughout the years have created the reenactment of the Battle of Fort Mims and although this marks the 199th remembrance of this memorable time, it does not mean that a reenactment has been created every year since. Beginning in 1991, the recreation of the Battle of Fort Mims has been overseen by local Boy Scout Troops, Daughters of the American Revolution and the State of Alabama. However, the past few years has seen local citizens taking responsibility to create their own committees to ensure that not only is the soldier/civilian experience represented, but also that more Native American input goes into the event.

"I was hoping for more Creek involvement," said Ginette Overall, Muscogee (Creek) citizen who had traveled from Tulsa to attend the event. Overall, along with her husband, Mickey, and friends who also made the trip, hopes to see more Muscogee citizens, and Native Americans coming to the 200th anniversary in 2012.

Patricia McCullers from Eurye, Ala., agrees.

McCullers has served on boards with the Fort Mims recreation and is a Muscogee (Creek) citizen as well as Chickasaw and Cherokee.

"It's always been a problem to get the Native American participants as the fighters. We have used Choctaw Indians from the Mobile and Washington counties, sometimes we have had some Poarch Band members show up, but mainly civil war reenactors," McCullers said.

McCullers has her own theory about why there are not always Native American participants, "For many years, or long ago, being an Indian was thought to be a disgrace, because they were so persecuted and their land was taken, and people wanted to remove themselves from that identity, they wanted to marry someone white and have a white name and escape the persecution. They were threatened with their homes being burned and they simply wanted to break through to white society, now the trend has shifted where being an Indian now is to be respected more."

MNN/Gerald Wofford
An actor portraying a Creek warrior shows the scalp he collected from one of the settlers of Fort Mims.

McCullers mentions that the reenactment has also evolved in how the violence in the battle occurred.

"A controversy brewed one year that there was too much violence, but we know there was; that's just the way it was, even in the numbers that were killed, some say 200 but we still believe over 500 were, and many of the bodies are buried under the ground where we stand."

Each year brings another opportunity to showcase the Native perspective of the Fort Mims experience

Ferris Powell was an Eagle Scout growing up and danced when he was young, he came one year to the reenactment and has been hooked on it ever since.

"I just fell in love with it."

Powell started out as one of the Native Warriors, but as time went by, he also found that the Native perspective wasn't being represented fairly. Powell began lecture during the day of the reenactments.

"In the last 20 years, I have really tried to give back as much as I can," said Powell, "because I wanted people to know the correct way about what the portrayal is all about. It's a complicated issue; it wasn't just a bunch of Indians beating up a group of people."

As a teacher, McCuller said she tries to explain the Creek perspective to her students, "How would you like it if you woke up one morning and there was a group of strange people on your front yard camping out and telling you they're planning on taking your home and they're not leaving?"

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

FILED
2012 SEP 7 AM 10
COURT CLERK

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
J.B., DOB: 04-22-06)
)
Alleged Deprived Children.)

Case No. JV 2010-08

NOTICE OF HEARING TO:

Michael Galloway, Natural Father of J.B.

YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that a Petition to Terminate Parental Rights has been filed against you in the above-styled and numbered cause and will be heard in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the **2ND day of November** at **9:30 A.M.**

YOU ARE HEREBY INFORMED that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the child remains a ward of the Court and custody be continued in the Children and Family Services Administration for continued foster placement of possible pre-adoptive placement. **YOU ARE FUTHER INFORMED** that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.

JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT CO
FILED
2012 SEP 5 PM
MUSCOGEE (CREEK
DONNA BEAV
COURT CLER

IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF:)
)
BRANDON BOUDREAUX,)
)
Petitioner,)
)
vs.)
)
SANDRA BOUDREAUX,)
)
Respondent.)

Case No. DV-2012-70

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: **Sandra Boudreaux**

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for divorce in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. DV-2010-70, styled In re the Marriage of Brandon Boudreaux, Petitioner and Sandra Boudreaux, Respondent, *Petition for Dissolution of Marriage*. The action alleges that the Petitioner is entitled to a decree of dissolution of marriage from you based on the grounds of incompatibility.

You are notified that you must appear at the hearing on the 2nd day of November, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. Failure to attend will result in the allegations contained in the *Petition* being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of Petitioner.

Given under my hand and seal this 5th day of Sept, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
By: Jobie King
(Deputy)

(SEAL)

Approved:
Kurt K. Townsend, MCN#642
Shannon L. Prescott, MCN#165
Courtney L. Eagan-Smith, MCN#543
Gregory N. Hope, MCN#641
MCN Citizen Legal Services

Emvponayv

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — The 2012 election season is drawing to a peak, with voting Nov. 6.

The parties of the donkey and the elephant are finished with their ceremonial national meetings crowning their choices for who is to be the next 'chief of all the Americans.'

The Republicans' Native-focused platform speaks of Indian self-determination, tribal sovereignty and federal-tribal consultation. It is titled, "Honoring Our Relationship with American Indians."

The language says, "Based on both treaty and other law, the federal government has a unique government-to-government relationship with and trust responsibility for Indian tribal governments and American Indians and Alaska Natives. These obligations have not been sufficiently honored." The platform goes on to say old social and economic problems are worse over the last several decades.

Since when are these things news to us? Did they forget that they were in charge of many of those years? President Richard Nixon was the guy who got a lot of the self-determination stuff started, why didn't someone mention that? It might have been a good tactic, or perhaps, they might not want to bring up Richard Nixon? Sure would like to hear more from Mitt Romney.

OK, let's take a look at the other side. And there's a lot listed there.

Democrats are pointing to the record of President Barack Obama.

Obama held the White House Tribal Nations Conference, where federal leaders talked with tribal governments. The president has directed federal agencies to fully implement an Executive Order on tribal consultation. They've talked about the Indian Health Service and promoting economic development.

President Obama signed the Affordable Health Care Act. One of the things it did was permanently authorize the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. First Lady Michelle Obama began the "Let's Move in Indian Country" program to end the epidemic of childhood obesity in Indian Country. Obama provided more than $3 billion to help tribal communities renovate schools on reservations, spur job creation in tribal economies, improve housing and energy efficiency and support health services.

Obama also signed the Tribal Law and Order Act giving tribes more powers and to meet a number of other legal needs. There's a proposal to improve safety for Native American women and allow Federal and tribal law enforcement agencies to hold more perpetrators of domestic violence accountable for their crimes through reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act.

The administration has resolved several significant and long-standing Native American legal claims including a $760 million settlement with Native American farmers and ranchers in the Keepseagle case and the Cobell settlement agreement (which some Native people are holding up in federal court). The list includes water settlements benefitting tribes in Arizona, Montana and New Mexico.

Obama announced the United States' support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People in response to calls from many tribal leaders. Hmmm. That one still puzzles me to this day. I've heard of this thing before, from the AIM guys, from the self-appointed International Indian Treaty Council, from some well-respected Native legal eagles and others. I guess I still don't see how the United Nations is going to make much difference in the relationship between tribes and the federal government. That remains to be seen.

I guess we'll all find out in November when the election campaigns are over and all those political ads will finally be gone. Be sure and vote.

Oh, by the way, when the Democratic National Convention started, questions were still being asked about Massachusetts democratic U.S. Senate candidate Elizabeth Warren, the 1/32 Cherokee (and 31/32 something else). She refused to face American Indian delegates wanting to talk about her claims of Native ancestry. Warren said she has already answered those questions. Was her grandmother a princess?

OK, now to something really important like the Indian Taco Festival Oct. 6 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., in downtown Pawhuska, Okla.

The event press release says, "The National Indian Taco Championship is gaining favor each year with crowds. The festival also features bands, American Indian dancing, shopping and a section for kids. Visitors pay $5 for the chance to help judge the Indian tacos. Judging will begin at 10 a.m., and winners will be announced between 3-4 p.m."

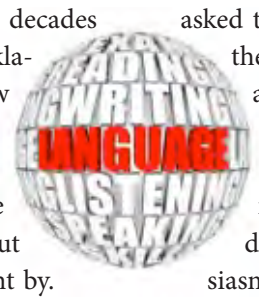
Three questions come to mind: One, does that five bucks mean "all you can eat?" Two, what are the standards for an Indian taco? Three, will anybody be making the famous '10-foot taco' like they did in New Mexico? (Burp.) Heartburn, here I come.

Learning our language, regaining culture: Week 1

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — It's been said that tribal language is the fabric of the culture. Mine is pretty threadbare. I decided to fix that.

After more than four decades of being away from Oklahoma, I had lost the few bits of the Creek language that I ever knew. My father had taught me some words as a child but they got lost as time went by. During the 40 years of roaming the country, I picked up a word or two of many other tribes' languages and always wished I knew more of my own.



I've signed up for the classes being offered during lunchtime here, swallowing the vanity that made me hesitant to admit my vast ignorance. I'm sure there are other Creeks that share the feeling.

It was like taking an express 'time machine' back to kindergarten. Not that the first lesson encompassed so much, but it made me remember those first days of school and the lessons I was first taught. You know, 'what are those symbols and what's an alphabet?' It was that basic.

The other attendees and I were asked to greet each other with the familiar "hensci" then asked to continue these conversations. Some got through the next response and others didn't. Clunk. My enthusiasm was cooled with a dose of reality as the words quickly got unfamiliar. Ouch! But, to remain positive about this endeavor, it gave me a measurement of how far I had to go. In the words of Chief Dan George from the movie, The Outlaw Josey Wales, "I will endeavor to persevere."

Our class took a test to determine our ability and allow our instructor, Daria Hicks, to divide the group into beginners and advanced. I could only answer two questions. Thankfully, most of the class joined me in the beginners. I thought, "Great, I can hide with some others. I can sound like an idiot and not be too embarrassed."

One of the first tasks was to be introduced to the alphabet. That was a reminder of the early days of my education, when I was a little burr-headed guy trying to figure out what school was all about. We were given a list of the alphabet that contained pronunciations and Hicks worked to teach us how the letters were correctly pronounced. She was relaxed and patient. She encouraged us to stick with it and even become teachers. She also gave us a reminder of how quickly our language was disappearing and to preserve it, by learning it.

I took the materials home and was determined to use the Mvskoke Language computer link to try and keep the lessons fresh in my mind. It helped, although I can see I will have to keep repeating the reviewing to make it stick in my old brain.

Cvkv vnnokes (My head hurts—See. I learned something!)

Euchee Language Project hosts Open House

Media Release
Euchee House

SAPULPA — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger gave words of encouragement in support of the Euchee, Mvskoke and other tribal languages during an open house held Aug. 29 at the Euchee House located at 1010 S. Main in Sapulpa.

"I've always been a supporter of the Euchee Language Program because I know how important our languages are. Our elders use to say that if our languages die out, then as a people, we die out, so it's important that these languages continue," Tiger said.

Tiger also spoke words of encouragement in the Muscogee language to the gathering of over 130 youth and elders assembled for the event.

"I think it's important to let people know what you're doing here is not only about the Euchee tribe, it's about all tribes, because of the language, because of the youth, because they're the ones that are going to have to carry on once we've all gone."

Remarks were also offered from elders who support the Euchee (Yuchi) Language Project on a daily basis. Ann Holder spoke of being deeply touched by the Euchee language work.

"I don't want our language to die out and I don't think any of you do either. The world around us respects us. When we say, 'We're Euchee and we have a language that's an isolate language, unrelated to any other,' they respect us because they feel like God blessed us in a special way through our unique language. So I just want to encourage you to keep supporting this and let your children know that you're behind them. In that way, they'll really work hard to carry out all that they are being taught here," Holder said.

Other elders in attendance who give daily support to the program included Josephine Bigler and Mary Watashe. Director of the Euchee Language Project, Dr. Richard Grounds, reminded everyone that the elder, k'asA Henry Washburn, who has been a supporter of the Euchee language effort is making progress in recovering from a fall earlier this year.

The youth and children who attend the daily after-school program conducted in the Euchee language gave presentations by playing Yuchi-epardy and singing songs. They introduced themselves and offered a prayer using the Euchee language.

Grounds pointed out that when the children sang the song, "zAladE" (a Euchee rendition of, "Lean On Me") it represented what the Euchee Language Project is all about: working with the elders, youth, staff and families.

Tiger responded to the "zAladE" performance, "I want to again thank the children, for that song has a lot of meaning to it. Because I see that is how our Euchee and Creek people survived along the Trail of Tears; we leaned on each other to help each other. And that's why we're here today. We're still here and as the beautiful hymn that is sung at Euchee churches says, that we're still moving on, we're looking ahead and we're not looking back, and I see that today with our youth."

The children and youth of the Euchee (Yuchi) Language Project will give a 30-minute presentation at the Oklahoma State Fair Oct. 6 and the young Euchee language learners will present at the National Indian Education Association meeting Oct. 18 for participants from all over Indian Country.

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For more information contact: Tammi Reed-Barnett
at (918)732-7883 OR email: tammirb@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

Community Calendar September 2012

Montesoma Baptist 125th anniversary Sept. 22

OKEMAH — Montesoma Indian Baptist Church will host its 125th Anniversary Celebration, Sept. 22-23 beginning at 5 p.m., Saturday. Festivities will continue with a service that evening at 7 p.m., and Sunday at 6 a.m. All are welcome.

For more information call 918-623-1811 or 918-623-9522.

Haikey Chapel Indian taco sale Sept. 22

TULSA — Haikey Chapel UMC will host an Indian taco sale Sept. 22 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Tacos will be $7.

The next Indian Taco sale will be Oct. 20 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Both sales will be at the church, located at 8805 E. 101st St., in Tulsa.

For more information, contact Sandra Chisholm at: sancrandall@yahoo.com

Domestic Violence Awareness Month events begin Sept. 25

HOLDENVILLE —The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program is hosting domestic violence awareness events throughout the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The events will feature domestic violence survivor panels, and will discuss ways that every community member bring about awareness and ensure the safety of women, children and communities. Participants will have the opportunity to win door prizes and a limited number of T-shirts.

- Sept. 25 - 6:30 p.m., at Holdenville, 224 E. Poplar Street
- Oct. 10 - 1:30 p.m., at Okmulgee, MCN Mound Building
- Oct. 23 - 7 p.m., at Eufaula Indian Community, 800 Forest Ave.

Pipestem Memorial Golf Tournament Sept. 28

NORMAN — The 11th annual F. Browning Pipestem Memorial Golf Tournament will begin 8:30 a.m., Sept. 28 at the Jimmie Austin Gold Club in Norman, Okla. Proceeds from the tournament go directly to scholarships for eligible Native American students.

A 1968 graduate of the University of Oklahoma College of Law, Pipestem's legacy lives on in the F. Browning Pipestem Scholarship, given in his memory to Native American students by the University of Oklahoma American Indian Alumni Society.

Donations are accepted and sponsorships are available.

For more information or to register for the golf tournament, contact Jarrod Tahsequah at 405-247-5475 or jtahsequah@ou.edu or Anna Clough at aclough@okcu.edu.

Glenpool Indian Community to host Open Market Oct. 6

GLENPOOL — The Glenpool Indian Community will host a fund-raising bazaar Oct. 6 at the GCIC Community Building from 7 a.m. - 2 p.m.

The event is open to the public and will feature items for barter, sale or trade including flea market, garden and Native American arts and crafts. A concession will be available as well as limited booth space on a first come first served basis.

For more information, contact Eleanor Irene VanBuskirk at 918-946-0077.

Hanna Public Schools benefit gospel singing Oct. 6

HANNA — A gospel singing fundraiser event to benefit Hanna Public Schools is set for Oct. 6 beginning at 2 p.m., on Main Street in Hanna, Okla.

The Hanna Assembly Church will sponsor the event, which will feature a concession where donations are accepted. All proceeds will support the school's effort to purchase playground equipment.

All gospel singers and musicians are welcome to sit in. Attendees are asked to bring their own lawn chairs.

For more information, contact Dale Watkins at 918-657-2344 or 918-639-6013.

Dwight Mission all-school reunion Oct. 6

VIAN — The Dwight Mission School will host an all-school reunion Oct. 6.

Registration will begin at 8:30 and coffee and doughnuts will be served. Lunch will be served at noon. An R.S.V.P. is required and all are welcome to attend.

For more information, contact Levada Smith-Wildcat at 918-773-3096.

Native Made Art Festival set for Oct. 27 in Jenks

Media Release
MCN Tourism & Recreation

JENKS — The inaugural Native Made Art Festival will be held at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Riverwalk in Jenks, Okla., from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Oct. 27.

Booth spaces are limited and free of charge and will be granted on a first come, first served basis.

All paperwork including copy of official documentation proving tribal citizenship in a federally-recognized tribe must be received by Oct. 5, 2012.

This is an outdoor event. All spaces are outside, provided a 10'x10' canopy and are limited to one per participant. Artists should prepare for wind or other inclement weather occurrences.

Artists should include four photos of recent artwork and a complete biography including information about the artwork and where it has been exhibited.

In order to be considered for a booth space, artists must donate a piece of their artwork to be used at the silent auction at the MVSKOKE Hall of Fame Induction Gala (fundraiser for the Creek Nation Foundation, Inc. and the MCN Annual Festival), Oct. 11, 2012.

All donations must be delivered to the MCN Tourism & Recreation Office by Oct. 8.

All artwork must be original work of registered artist. No manufactured, imitation craft items or objects made from commercial kits, patterns or molds will be accepted. Items made from endangered species may not be exhibited.

Any unacceptable merchandise be removed. All artwork must be properly represented to the buyer. Any artist who misrepresents himself or his artwork and/or who does not abide by the rules and regulations set forth will be asked to leave the festival.

Artists will be notified as complete applications and required materials are accepted.

If an application is received after the deadline or, if for various reasons an artist is not accepted, said artist will be notified.

Artist registration will be form 8–9 a.m., Oct. 27. All artists must register and must have proper paperwork on file with the MCN Tourism & Recreation Department to participate.

For more information, please contact MCN Tourism & Recreation at 918-732-7993.

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OBITUARIES

MELANIE FIXICO

TAHLEQUAH — Melanie Dawn Fixico-Locust passed away Aug. 29, 2012 in Okemah at the age of 38.

She was born Feb. 25, 1974 to Benny Fixico and Rose (Starr) Fixico in Tahlequah, Okla.

Melanie received her Associate Degree of Business Administration from Sipi Indian College in New Mexico and was studying to receive her bachelor's degree. She loved spending time with her family and friends and loved being around her children and grandson. She enjoyed playing horseshoes, bowling and visiting family in Oklahoma. She loved the Oklahoma and Dallas Cowboys football teams.

Melanie wanted her family to remember the good and fun times they spent together and that she will always be in their hearts.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Rose Starr Fixico; sister, Stephanie Fixico; brother, Steven Fixico; grandmother, Lena Taylor Starr and grandfather, Eli Starr.

Survivors include her children, Whitlea Bell, Alexander Mitchell and Alena Mitchell, all of Okmulgee; father, Benny Fixico of Okemah; brothers, Ronnie Fixico of Albuquerque, N.M., and Dennis Taylor of Muskogee and grandson, Aidyn Fixico of Okmulgee and other relatives and friends.

Wake services were held Aug. 31, 2012 at the Prairie Springs Indian Baptist Church in Okemah.

Funeral services were held Sept. 1, 2012 at the Prairie Springs Indian Baptist Church in Okemah with Revs. Richard Fixico and Mitchell Taylor officiating. Burial followed the service at the Starr Family Cemetery in Henryetta under the direction of the Shurden-Jackson Funeral Home in Okmulgee.

Pallbearers were Benny Fixico, Jr., Chris Fixico, Steve Fixico, Dennis Taylor, Matthew Fixico and Buckey Fixico.

Honorary pallbearers were James Starr, Jerry Reagon, Keith Phillips, John Billie and Shannon Starr.

PERRY MCCOMBS

MCALESTER — Perry McCombs, 88, of Eufaula died Aug. 25, 2012 at Mitchell Manor Convalescent Home in McAlester.

He was born April 21, 1924 to Rev. James and Ella (Mcintosh) McCombs in rural Mcintosh County.

Perry attended school at Oak Grove, Stidham, Sequoyah, and Bacone.

He was retired from the Corps of Engineers and a WWII Navy Veteran. At the age of 18, he enlisted in the Navy and served on the destroyer USS Morris which earned 15 battle stars in the South Pacific.

Perry was very proud of his family, his Muscogee (Creek) heritage, and his service to his country.

Perry was preceded in death by his parents; his sister, Martha; and brothers, David, Solomon, James, Jr., Tom, and Elmer. He is survived by his niece, Rosemary McCombs Maxey, and numerous cousins and friends.

A graveside service was held Aug. 28, 2012 at the Greenwood Cemetery with Rev. Paul Maxey officiating. Burial was under the direction of Hunn Black & Merritt Funeral Home & Crematory.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Legion Post 82.

ROBBY MCMURTRY

OKMULGEE — Award-winning artist Robby McMurtry, 61, a member of the Comanche Tribe was internationally known as a painter, illustrator, novelist and playwright died in Morris, Okla., Aug. 1. In addition to gaining worldwide acclaim as an artist, McMurtry devoted a major portion of his life to educating young people in the Morris and Okmulgee communities. He worked as an art teacher and as cultural coordinator for the Indian Education Program for more than 30 years, including 10 years with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Even outside of Morris High school, where he taught, people in the community knew McMurtry and his work. His presence was felt everywhere, from (the artwork at) graduations to local houses, to the mural next to the library and his knowledge of local Native American history and folklore benefited teachers and students, enhancing their experience of their home region.

Teacher Mickie Giddens said his presence was always welcome in her classroom.

"He would always come to my classroom and tell some of the myths and legends in the local area. What a rare blessing it was to have such a well-known artist as a high school teacher," Giddens said.

McMurtry was also a playwright who created several works about Native culture and traditions produced in Oklahoma. "Skins" (slang for "Indians"), which he co-authored with Linda Poolaw, was produced at Oklahoma College of Liberal Arts while McMurtry was a student there. The play was later produced by the Sac and Fox Tribe of Shawnee, Okla., and the American Indian Theatre Company at the University of Tulsa in 1977. McMurtry also wrote a series of children's plays for the Tribal Youth Theatre in Tulsa.

McMurtry was also an award-winning author and graphic illustrator. He liked his artwork to tell stories, combining his writing and art in a series of graphic novels based on historical figures of Oklahoma. This interest went back to his childhood when he would hang out at cafes as his mother waitressed. He said some stories and subjects stemmed from his Comanche grandmother and he often enjoyed watching his father, Bob McMurtry, draw cowboys, Indians and other western subjects. He recalled looking forward to reading the comic section of the newspaper in his youth.

"When the Sunday paper would arrive and I loved the comics. I can't remember being interested in anything but comics," he said.

In 1980, McMurtry eventually had his own comics published in the Morris News. Done in ink, the Red Dirt Chronicles: Episodes, Legends and Lies ran for a year in the paper. That experience is reflected in the title of his graphic-novel series on American Indians. Now, graphic artists are using the history of Indian culture as the basis for some of their work. Robby's books include, "Gunplay," "Native Heart," "Relics," and "Medicine Lodge."

McMurtry contributed to the Tulsa Indian Art Market for decades. Owner Linda Greever described McMurtry as "…one of the most talented people I've ever known. Much of his work consisted of intricate pen and ink drawings that typically dealt with serious subject matter, graphic novel illustrations and bright, bold oil and acrylic work. I have seen him sit down and draw a piece. He'd start at one corner, and when he got to the other corner, it was finished. It was in his mind, so well he could just sit down and fill the page."

Robby was born in San Antonio, Texas Oct. 21, 1950 to Robert Emil and Clara Lee (Smith) owner. He graduated from Velm-Alma High School in Velma, Okla., in 1969. Later he received a Bachelor's Degree in English and Minors in Art and Sociology in 1973 from Oklahoma College of Liberal Arts in Chickasha, Okla. He married Lesa Deann Davis June 25, 1976 in Duncan, Okla. He received a teaching certification from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Okla., in 1999. His home was near Okmulgee and he shared it with his wife, two daughters, grandchildren, assorted dogs and horses and a Chevy.

He has exhibited his art work throughout the U.S. and Europe, where many pieces have found permanent homes in both private and public collections. McMurtry will not only be remembered for his art, but for his humanitarianism, his kind heart and his great personality. He was always willing to help out. He will be missed.

Contributions can be made in McMurtry's name to a scholarship fund at Morris Public Schools. Condolences may be made at www.mcclendon-winters.com. You can see McMurtry's gallery artwork at the Creek Council House Museum in Okmulgee, Okla., Tuesday through Friday. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

GARRY WAYNE SARTY

TULSA — Garry Wayne Sarty of Coweta, age 72, passed away peacefully July 26, 2012 at St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa, Okla.

Garry was born July 5, 1940 in Claremore, Okla., and was the son of Homer Gilmore and Edna Marie (Dunlap) Sarty.

Garry received his education at Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kansas. He was a machinist at Raytheon for around 40 years.

Garry was a member at Davis Chapel United Methodist Church. Garry enjoyed fishing, hunting and he enjoyed watching sports. He will be missed, as a loving son, father, brother, grandfather, uncle and friend.

Garry is lovingly survived by his son, Garrett Sarty and companion, Cindy White, of Plano, Texas; his mother, Edna Sarty of Coweta; his brothers and sisters, Bert Sarty of North Carolina, Norma Jo White of Stillwater, Okla., Pat Widdoes of Coweta, Carol Withers of Coweta, Homer Sarty, Jr., of Anna, Texas, Shannon Sarty of Checotah, Okla., and Leslie Crutchfield of Coweta; his grandson, Leighthan Vinson; and numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Garry was preceded in death by his father, Homer Sarty, and his daughter, Garri Lynn Sarty.

A wake service was held July 27, 2012 at Wright-Brown Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral services were July 28, 2012 at Davis Chapel United Methodist Church in Coweta with Rev. Ben Ewing officiating and Rev. Amy Johnson assisting. Burial followed in Vernon Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Danny McManus, Dillon McManus, John Rike, Heath Sarty, Homer Sarty and Jay Potter. Buck Yocham was an honorary pallbearer.

JAMES FLETCHER WAGGONER

DEPEW — Beloved James Fletcher Waggoner entered into eternity June 8, 2012.

James was born in Claremore, Okla., at the Claremore Indian Hospital Nov. 5, 1972. James was baptized at the Indian Methodist Church in Tulsa, Okla.

James was a proud citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, loving husband of Michelle Gourd-Waggoner, proud father of T.J., Nicholis, Andy and Waylon, grandson of James Barnett and Lizzie Starr-Barnett, son of George Edward Waggoner and Norma Jean Barnett-Waggoner, brother of Leesa Kay-Jewpillit Waggoner, Shields Al-Hutee Waggoner, Jennie Katoos Waggoner and Lance Edward Waggoner.

James was employed with Action Movers for seven years with John Carey of Glenpool, Okla.

When James was young, he enjoyed playing baseball with Springdale Elementary School. James enjoyed attending peyote meetings with his father when he was younger and listening to his father's peyote songs in the truck on the way there and on the way home.

James favorite saying was, "That's what I'm talking about." He enjoyed giving hugs and saying "I love you."

James liked grill and get together to enjoy a quiet good day in life. James was an honest, forgiving, spiritual, and humble man.

Funeral services were held June 14, 2012 at Hutchins-Maples Funeral Home in Bristow, Okla.

Pallbearers were Jim Ames, Jason Buck, T.J. Gourd, Fred (Smokey) Sargent, Lerell (Bo) Knox and Jason Ritchie.

Honorary pallbearer was Stephen Gourd. Burial followed the service at Waggoner Family Cemetery in Depew, Okla.

HOWARD LEE WEST

OKLAHOMA CITY — Howard Lee West of Wewoka, passed away Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2012 in Oklahoma City at the St. Anthony's Hospital at the age of 55.

West was born Sept. 26, 1956 in Henryetta, Okla., to Bill and Nellie (Mitchell) West.

Howard attended Graham School and worked for Aspen Tree Surgeons as a trimmer. He attended Pecan Grove Methodist Church.

He was well known for taking care of his three dogs and his family members. A day didn't go by that he didn't call and check on his father.

His interests were basketball, wrestling, beading and helping people.

Preceding him in death were his grandparents, Robert and Louise West, Sam and Bettie Mitchell and infant son, Bill Ledon West.

Survivors include his wife Mary Ronnell West of Wewoka; two sons Jerome West of Ponca City, Okla., Damon West of Oklahoma City; daughter Patricia Koen of Grand Prairie, Texas; five grandchildren; Brandi, Lance, Lovieanne, Galen and Eliana; five sisters Wilma West of Weleetka, Okla., Betsy West, Sandra May both of Okemah, Okla., Bettie West of Glenpool, Okla., Tina Pangle of 29 Palms, Calif.; three brothers, Charles West, of Weleetka, Okla., Daniel West of Ponca City, Lumsey West of Wewoka, Okla., many nephews, nieces, and a host of other relatives and friends.

Pallbearers were Steve Tiger, Dave Pangle, Scott May, Wilbert Zackery, Thomas Harjo and Terry Clark.

Honorary pallbearers were Glen West, Willie West, Levi Vanzant, Billy Roberts, Brandon Vanzant, Robert West and David Pangle Jr.

A wake service was held Aug.18, 2012 at Stout-Phillips Funeral Home Chapel, with Revs. Wallace Gambler and Malcom Tiger.

The funeral service was held Aug. 20, 2012 at Thewarle Baptist Church with Revs. Wallace Gamble and Rev. Malcom Tiger officiating and burial at Mitchell Cemetery.

Arrangements by Stout-Phillips Funeral Home and an online guestbook is available at PhillipsFuneralService.com

OIC 6th Annual
Fall Harvest Festival
2012
Friday, September 21
Feast ~ 5:30 P.M. and
Ceremonial Dance ~ 7:30 P.M.
Movie on the lawn ~ 6:00 P.M.
Bring blankets/chairs and enjoy watching the movie on our 2 story big screen TV.
Saturday, September 22
Parade ~ 10:00 A.M.
Closing date: September 17, 2012
Registration: 8:30 A.M. - 9:15 A.M.
Line up: 9:30 A.M.
(Church of Christ parking lot, 7th & Broadway)
Festival Events ~ 12:00 P.M.
Kiddie land ~ 12:00 P.M
3 inflatables, obstacle courses & carnival rides
Okemah Indian Community
Saturday, September 22
Outdoor Concert ~ 12:00 P.M.
Raz-N-Kane ~ 12:00 P.M.
Sweatin Bullets ~ 2:00 P.M.
Jason Young Band ~ 4:00 P.M. -
(Oklahoma's No. 1 Best live music)
Brian Hughes - 6:00 P.M.
Live CD debut: up for Male Vocalist in Oklahoma
Battle of the Bands ~ 8:00 P.M.
Golf Tournament, V-ball, Horseshoe, Basketball, and Softball will take place during the Festival food and merchandise vendors on location.
For more information, please call 918-623-9225

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"Caring when it counts"

ATTN:
-MUSCOGEE VETERANS-
MOTORCYCLE RIDERS

Situation: Yearly Veterans motorcycle ride is approaching.

Mission: Veteran motorcyclists will dine and watch movie at Admiral Twin Drive-In.

Execution: Veteran motorcyclists and 1 guest riding with veteran will:

1. Assemble at MCN Veterans building (VASO) at 1500 on Friday, 12 Oct 12
2. Group will depart VASO at 1505 and proceed to the restaurant - 5 & Diner, Highway 51 and Memorial, Tulsa, OK.
3. At 1730 group will depart restaurant and proceed to the Admiral Twin Drive-In, off Highway 244, Tulsa, OK.
4. Between 2100 and 2300 group will depart Drive-In theater and travel back to VASO.

Administrative: VASO will pay for dinner and admission to movie for veteran and 1 guest.

1. Veteran must be Muscogee (Creek) citizen
2. Veteran allowed 1 guest and guest must be on motorcycle with veteran.
3. Refreshments at Drive-In theater will be responsibility of veteran.
4. VASO's company car will be trace vehicle.
5. Veterans must bring their vest; VASO will transport vests in car.
6. Vest must be worn at restaurant and Drive-In theater.

Communication: Muscogee Veterans please call Ken Davis or Shawn Taryole by 1700, 11 Oct 12 to register for the event at phone numbers: (918) 732-7739 or (918) 732-7745.

Social Services to see clients by appointment only beginning Oct. 1

Media Release
MCN Social Services

OKMULGEE—The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Social Services Department will see applicants by appointment only beginning Oct. 1.

The department made the change due to an increase in phone calls, clients and applications received.

The client-based program receives hundreds of calls and client walk-ins each day.

The appointment-based system does not include the School Clothing Program or Social Security.

Department officials said walk-ins will no longer be seen, but exceptions will be made for citizens seeking burial assistance or those who have been a victim of a natural disaster such as a fire, flood, tornado, earthquake, etc.

Applicants requesting assistance must call and speak to a caseworker to determine potential eligibility.

If eligible, the applicant must make an appointment to see a caseworker. However, faxes will be accepted in certain cases. Applicants on the General Assistance program will need to call in prior to Oct. 1 to set up an appointment.

Beginning Sept. 26, MCN Social Services Department will be closed the last Wednesday of each month in order to complete casework. This does not include the School Clothing or Social Security programs.

The mission of the MCN Social Services Department is to counsel, advocate and provide referrals for Native American households to meet certain unmet essential needs. Social Services shall provide necessary assistance to eligible Native American households striving to enhance quality of life while promoting self-sufficiency and financial stability. Along with the new mission, goals have been placed and the department is working towards those goals.

Applicants seeking assistance around the Dustin, Weleetka, Wetumka and Holdenville areas may visit the Southern Regional Office for assistance with faxing documents to the Okmulgee office.

For more information, contact the MCN Social Services office at 918-549-2445.

LIHEAP and Tribal Energy program applications due Sept. 21

Media Release
MCN Social Services

OKMULGEE — Applications for the MCN Energy Assistance Program are now being processed. Applicants should submit a copy of the following documents required to determine eligibility:

LIHEAP Participants

- Current electric bill (must be in applicant and/or spouse's name)
- Citizenship card(s) or CDIB card(s) for all household members; if non-native, include driver's license or birth certificate
- Social Security card(s) for all household members
- Income or lack of income for all household members 18 years or older (check stub, unemployment benefits verification, and food stamp or commodities verification will be accepted)
- Written statement (applicant must sign, date, and leave a phone number.

Tribal Energy Participants

- Current electric bill (must be in applicant and/or spouse's name)
- Citizenship card(s) for all household members; if non-native, include driver's license or birth certificate
- Social Security card(s) for all household members
- Written statement (applicant must sign, date, and leave a phone number.

The last day to apply will be Sept. 21

For questions or additional information contact Social Services at 918-549-2445 or 1-800-482-1979.

School Clothing applications available through Oct. 26

Media Release
MCN Social Services

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation School Clothing Program 2012/2013, is now accepting applications until Oct. 26, 2012 at 5 p.m.

This program is open to all Muscogee (Creek) citizen students no matter where they live in the United States.

Call 918-549-2473 or toll free at 1-800-482-1979 for an application to be mailed or faxed.

All applications must be returned or mailed to: School Clothing Program, P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK. 74447.

Please do not fax or e-mail the applications.

For more information, contact the School Clothing Program at 918-549-2473 or toll free at 1-800-482-1979, ext. 2473.

Tribal Driveways Program now accepting applications

Media Release
MCN Tribal Driveways Program

OKMULGEE — The Tribal Driveways Program is accepting applications for repair of accessible driveways for property owners who reside within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation boundaries. Applicant must be enrolled with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation tribe.

Hours of operation are 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Friday. We are located on the Creek Nation Capitol Complex area between the Indian Health Service building and the old Head Start building in Okmulgee, Okla.

The Tribal Driveways Program addresses the needs of our Muscogee (Creek) Nation elders and tribal citizens that require services due to the poor condition of their private drives.

ELIGIBILITY: (Need copies)

1. Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizenship card
2. Warranty Deed (in Creek owner's name)
3. Oklahoma Driver's License or ID
4. Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizen will be limited to no more than one (1) service every four (4) years

Organization applications are also available for Muscogee (Creek) Nation ceremonial grounds, tribal towns, community centers, churches and when needed, family cemeteries that are within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation boundaries.

For more information or to request an application call 918-732-7651 or 1-800-482-1979.

MOVIE NIGHT!

ATTENTION: MUSCOGEE (CREEK) VETERANS

ALL BRANCHES

In Honor of Muscogee Veterans the VASO will be hosting

"MOVIE NIGHT"

(Friday, 19 October 2012)

• Showtime - 1900 Hrs.

Location - Veterans Building (MCN Complex)

Movie - "**THE LOST BATTALION"** (with Rick Schroder)

Drinks - Coke & Diet Coke (Free Of Charge) • Chow - Popcorn (Free Of Charge)

Smoking Lamp is Lit • Price of Admission - FREE (Adults only)

• Muscogee Veterans plus one adult guest

Any questions call Shawn Taryole at the MCN VASO (918) 732-7745

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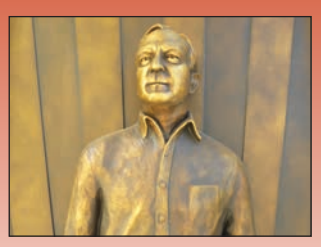
Brook - Page 5



Muscogee Nation News

Official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and a production of Mvskoke Media

U.S. Interior session hears sacred ground dispute

Citizens gather for protest of Poarch Band Creeks' casino construction in Alabama

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

TULSA—The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs has been conducting a series of such sessions across the U.S., hearing Native input and concerns and for the protection of sacred lands. The U.S. Department of Interior billed the meeting as a 'listening session' on Native American sacred sites and they got an earful.

The subject of the Alabama Poarch Band of Creek Indians using traditional and historic lands located in Wetumpka, Ala., for a casino took a majority of the discussion time and included testimony presented to the federal team, Sept. 18 in a downtown Tulsa courtroom.

The actions of the Alabama group have angered members of the Oklahoma Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) and Hickory Ground. The groups claim the Poarch Band has desecrated sacred burial grounds and funerary objects by removing them from the site and constructing a casino on that land.

MNN/Christina Good Voice

Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizens gathered outside a Tulsa courthouse to protest the development of the historic Hickory Ground in Wetumka, Ala., Sept. 18.

Muscogee (Creek) tribal members and members of other Oklahoma-based tribes filled the room for the listening session. It was Choctaw citizen Lester Williston who set the tone for the majority of the meeting early by saying, "There are a lot more things more important than money. Our souls are more important than money."

Principal Chief George Tiger, Second Chief Roger Barnett and National Council Speaker Sam Alexander presented opening statements from the MCN, which opposed the Poarch Band development.

When the traditional leader of Hickory Ground arrived, the MCN leaders deferred to him. Mekko George Thompson spoke of the existing casino and the Poarch Band's plans to extend their business enterprises on those lands considered sacred by Hickory Ground. The group opposes any development and wants the ancestral remains reburied in the disturbed cemetery, with the lands returned to a natural state.

Tiger offered additional testimony charging that federal agencies so far had done nothing in the past to enforce existing federal laws regarding these protections and that the Poarch Band has not embraced tribal tradition.

See Protest - 6

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Vol. 42, Issue 19
"Otowoskv Rakko"
Big Chestnut Month

MCN communities see record turnouts during officer elections

The Okmulgee and Muskogee Indian Communities held their officer elections in Sept.

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE — The Okmulgee and Muskogee Indian Communities held their officer elections Sept. 10.

The newly elected officers for the Okmulgee Indian Community (OIC) Board of Directors will take office at the beginning of their new fiscal year Oct. 1. Barring any contesting, the new officers are: Chairperson Lanissa Jack-Melton, Vice Chair Joe Martel Jr., Treasurer Linette Factor, Secretary Leslie Powell and Sergeant-at-Arms Ned Hodge.

MNN/Sterling Cosper

The Okmulgee Indian Community saw a record turnout of 84 people for officer elections Sept. 10.

Officers for the Muskogee Indian Community (MIC) took office immediately and are as follows: Chairman Star Fields, Vice Chair Elizabeth Rohoden, Treasurer Georgia Frye, Secretary Sue Johnson and Sergeant-at-Arms David Long III.

In a change of procedure, both of these communities requested the assistance of the Muscogee Creek Nation (MCN) Election Board to help with their elections, rather than conducting them themselves.

"All we do is set up the election and help count," said MCN Election Board employee Diane Meeker.

Community Research and Development Manager Sarai Geary explained that it helps the larger communities to have the election board count their votes to help with accuracy.

"It's also nice to have an unbiased entity count," she said.

The OIC election had a record turnout of 84 voters.

OIC member Ruth "Penny" Betsillie explained why she felt it was important to vote.

See Election - 2

Riverwalk signs property manager and new tenant

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

JENKS — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) has signed its first tenant to the Riverwalk Crossing in Jenks since the tribe purchased it April 17.

Jesse Markham, General Manager of Electrical Consultants Inc., an electrical engineering company has signed a lease to Building 1100 of the facility.

"We're really happy to have him on board," said Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise (MNBE) CEO Woody Anderson.

In addition, MCN citizen Kim Partin with Merit Properties was hired as the property manager of the Riverwalk.

"I'm very excited. When I heard about the purchase of this by MCN, I immediately put together a package to ask them for the opportunity to manage and work with them on leasing," said Partin.

Shelby Navarro CEO of 1Architecture, who was involved in the MCN Senior Housing and Recycling Center projects, has also been hired to work on Riverwalk Crossing in order to make improvements and possible additions to the facility.

See Riverwalk - 2

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Christina Good Voice

Editor
Rebecca Landsberry

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Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Please contact our office for deadline of submissions to be considered for inclusion. The **Muscogee Nation News** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate The **Muscogee Nation News** in any regard.

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To submit a change of address or a letter to the editor, call (918) 732-7720 or send e-mail to: wlewis@mcn-nsn.gov

NAJA
Members of the Native American Journalists Association

Tribes hosts first food and fitness conference

Nation looks to become more sovereign concerning healthy choices

Gerald Wofford
MNN Feature Writer

OKMULGEE — The Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative (MFSI) held a Food and Fitness Symposium Sept. 21 in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Mound Building Auditorium on the Capitol Complex in Okmulgee.

Rita Williams has been with MFSI, a non-profit organization, since its inception in 2010, " policy coordinator and chairperson of the MFSI Food and Fitness Policy Council shared her excitement about the conference and explained how needed this event is.

"We looked at our food system. We lacked in farmers; where are our farmers? Also, how can we get healthy foods to our people because we have citizens that have to drive 30 or 40 miles to get their foods like at the major grocery stores in town and those foods can come from corporations that spray pesticides on their fruits and vegetables."

MNN/Gerald Wofford
Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative Food and Fitness Policy Coordinator Chairperson Rita Williams is pictured above.

Williams pointed to the availability of farmer's markets that MFSI creates to help solve this problem.

The event also included speakers throughout the day such as Andrea Carmen, who lectured on the rights and importance of indigenous people to have their own food sovereignty programs and Andrea Beck who shared tips on how to eat healthy on a budget.

Ben Yahola introduced the traditional Mvskoke game of 'chunky' to participants as a healthy activity.

Williams hopes this conference will help Muscogee (Creek) citizens in the future.

"We want to have a nation that grows its own food and creates its own food sovereignty."

Election

Continued from Page 1

"It's the people's voice. We should have a say in our governance, so then we can't say we don't know what's going on," she said.

Newly elected Vice Chairman Joe Martel Jr., explained why he ran for his position on the board.

"We're not here to be noticed, but to do the right thing. We're trying to get our community back on the right path," he said.

OIC member Susanna Grayson gave compliments to outgoing Chair Esther Gee.

"She has faced a lot of problems with the community members, but we have seen change in her term and she has a lot of people's respect for the things she's done," she said.

Gee expressed her gratitude to the OIC during the community meeting following the election.

"I just want to say, 'mvto' to all of you for letting me be your chairperson for eight years, and thank you to all of the committees and the volunteers because it's hard to get volunteers. You all are in good hands with your new board," she said.

Newly elected Chairperson Lanissa Jack-Melton thanked the OIC members who voted in the election.

"Thank you, whether you voted for me or not. Voting is a privilege no matter who you voted for," she said.

She also expressed some apprehension about her new position.

"Being your new chair, I'm a little nervous. So in the future, just bear with me," Jack-Melton said.

MIC Chairman Star Fields, incumbent-elect, shared plans for his new term.

"The only source of income we have is from the smoke shop and we are looking for something as economic development besides that," he said.

Fields said he was optimistic about the MIC's ability to obtain this under the new MCN administration.

"Chief Tiger is working excellent with the new communities. There has been a lot of growth because the new administration is willing to let the communities enterprise and operate on their own," he said.

The MIC, much like the OIC, has seen an increase in community growth and participation.

"That is one of the reasons we had to purchase a new building because we've out grown this one. We ran out of chairs and people were standing during election night and everybody wasn't even there," said MIC secretary Sue Johnson.

According to Johnson, the MIC hopes that their new building will be ready for their next meeting Oct. 1.

Fields shared the MIC's collective goal.

"We want to strive to be the best community and top of the line," he said.

Riverwalk

Continued from Page 1

Anderson said his team is working with Navarro on new signs for the portion of the Riverwalk facing the parking lot as well as new lighting, paint and bathrooms.

"We're also going to be installing about 59 security cameras and we've got about three acres in the north part of the property that we need to decide how to use," said Anderson.

Partin believes that those involved in the Riverwalk project make a great team.

"There's a lot of synergy with the group we are putting together, great ideas," she said.

A citizen of Jenks, Partin said that the local community shares her optimism.

"They're very excited. When I was introduced at the Jenks Chamber of Commerce meeting, they clapped. That was not just the chamber, members of the Jenks community were there as well," she said.

MNN/Sterling Cosper
Kim Partin, Property Manager of the Riverwalk Crossing in Jenks, talks business with MNBE CEO Woody Anderson inside the executive office at the Riverwalk facility.

While Partin and her team are working well together, she added that they are also working well with Jenks city officials, community members and tenants already occupying Riverwalk.

"The city of Jenks is always open to answer our questions and help us. We've also talked to people who live in the community and my neighborhood that are already tenants about their vision," she said.

The team is looking to other cities with successful developments for ideas on how to better utilize the Riverwalk.

"We're trying to look beyond Tulsa and trying to make this a little different than what it has been in order to change the people that come here through the businesses we have," Partin said.

Anderson hinted at what kind of ideas they might borrow.

"I've been on vacation in Florida and they have a restaurant there that is also a music venue. The families are entertained as they wait for their tables. That's one thing I've discussed with Kim is a restaurant with music, those kind of places really pack in the people," he said.

Anderson said he plans to continue featuring live music around the amphitheater and is working with the city on a low water dam to get more consistent water flow in the portion of the Arkansas River running along side the development.

"We're also thinking about the cross marketing we can do with River Spirit Casino," he said.

Anderson said the MCN has been very active in developing the Riverwalk and will continue to do so.

"We've got some very aggressive things going on, and we see a lot of great things happening. Of course the chief and some of the administration will be up here at this office, so the tribe will have a presence here at Riverwalk," he said.

Montesoma Baptist Church celebrates 125 years

Montesoma Baptist Church acknowledged as Muscogee landmark

Gerald Wofford
MNN Feature Writer

OKMULGEE — The oldest Muscogee (Creek) church recognized a milestone Sept. 22-23. Created before Oklahoma statehood, when Indian Territory was all the land was known as, Montesoma Baptist Church, located 22 miles northwest of Okmulgee, celebrated its 125th anniversary as an important part of Creek history.

A sunrise service Sunday morning marked the occasion. After Sunday school, Deacon Charles Taylor rang the bell, something that's been done since the church's inception. The ringing of the bell invites all to the Sunday worship service.

"This is just my duty to do," said Taylor, who prays silently each time before he is called upon to ring the bell.

Willis Knight, 93, remembers how special the ringing of the bell has always been to the church.

"When they rang that bell, everybody would stop, they would stop walking and talking, they knew it was time to get ready to go into the church."

Knight grew up in the church and remembered how it has always supported its warriors that have served the country throughout the years.

"My father served in World War I, I served in World War II; my sons served in Vietnam," he said.

Knight said the love his family received helped him make the decision to become a missionary when he grew up. This dedication the church is also shared in the family. His daughter recently returned from China where she was serving as a missionary.

"A long time ago, just like the Bible says, someone planted a seed, then someone else came along and watered it and then God provides the increase," he said.

The Sunday morning service opened with singing in the Mvskoke language and Pastor Jay Downing welcoming everyone to the service.

The congregation included current and past members, as well as past leaders and deacons including Muscogee (Creek) Nation Council Speaker Sam Alexander who is a member.

MNN/Gerald Wofford

Charles Taylor, deacon at Montesoma Baptist Church, prepares to ring the bell for Sunday morning's service. Montesoma recently celebrated its 125 anniversary.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger and wife Frances were in attendance. Although Tiger is not a member of Montesoma, he felt it was important to attend on this particular weekend.

"This is a great day for all Creek churches because it shows the stability and consistency of our people; we have always been spiritual and we have always relied on our faith to endure and I believe this is a good example. My father used to preach here and I remember going to camps here . . .I think it shows how we all, as Creek people, always come together no matter what church we are from," said Tiger.

Esther Berryhill, a long-time member of Montesoma, agrees.

"We had a lot of different churches come this weekend, about 28. It's good that we're celebrating and hopefully in another 25 years we'll be celebrating 150. This is my second home, I grew up here; my brothers and sisters grew up here too, a lot of people that are here today, their mothers and fathers grew up here and the younger ones come back here too," Berryhill said.

She admits she left the church for a while when growing up and then realized how much she missed it.

"This is a praying church and that's what has kept us going. I got re-baptized when I came back here," she said.

MNN/Gerald Wofford

Montesoma's congregational hall displays past leaders of the church's 125-year history.

Berryhill points to key leaders in the church while growing up here, "Solomon Bullett was a pastor here, he was a big influence on so many people, there were a lot of strong women too like Bertha Yahola, my teacher. She was just like a mother and told us how to behave and the difference between right and wrong . . . this church has lasted long through prayers and our leaders who were here and their kids who become leaders too."

Myrtle Denny, the oldest living female member of Montesoma, commented on how the church has remained strong through so many years.

"Growing up, we always had discipline. We knew when to be at church, to be on time, to help one another and pray; we always need to keep doing that," Denny said.

Rev. Norman Daniel of Butler Creek Baptist Church was asked to bring the message on Sunday morning and encouraged the congregation to always remember God and keep making him the central focus.

Before the service was over, members of the congregation stood and spoke about being thankful and happy for this day. Tiger recalled attending Royal Ambassador camps as a child when legendary Creek preachers such as Frank Belvin spoke.

Eli H. Sheldon, Historical Secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma was on hand to award certificates to Montesoma and to award Denny for the longest continuous membership in the church.

Deacon David Lena was glad to participate in the festivities. Lena has been a part of the church since 1986 and serves as unofficial historian.

"The original site of the church was actually a few miles west of here before they decided to permanently move here," he said.

Lena also explained the unique name of the church, which got its name from the missionary's name was Monty and his wife's name was Soma and that's how it was named," laughed Lena, "It has to be a good name because it lasted this long."

MNN/Gerald Wofford

The congregation at Montesoma Baptist Church prays before hearing the message from the Rev. Norman Daniel.

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Native Made Art Festival set for Oct. 27 in Jenks

Media Release
MCN Tourism & Recreation

JENKS — The inaugural Native Made Art Festival will be held at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Riverwalk in Jenks, Okla., from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Oct. 27.

Booth spaces are limited and free of charge and will be granted on a first come, first served basis.

All paperwork including copy of official documentation proving tribal citizenship in a federally-recognized tribe must be received by Oct. 5, 2012.

This is an outdoor event. All spaces are outside, provided a 10'x10' canopy and are limited to one per participant. Artists should prepare for wind or other inclement weather occurrences.

Artists should include four photos of recent artwork and a complete biography including information about the artwork and where it has been exhibited.

In order to be considered for a booth space, artists must donate a piece of their artwork to be used at the silent auction at the MVSKOKE Hall of Fame Induction Gala (fundraiser for the Creek Nation Foundation, Inc. and the MCN Annual Festival), Oct. 11, 2012.

All donations must be delivered to the MCN Tourism & Recreation Office by Oct. 8.

All artwork must be original work of registered artist. No manufactured, imitation craft items or objects made from commercial kits, patterns or molds will be accepted. Items made from endangered species may not be exhibited.

Any unacceptable merchandise be removed. All artwork must be properly represented to the buyer. Any artist who misrepresents himself or his artwork and/or who does not abide by the rules and regulations set forth will be asked to leave the festival.

Artists will be notified as complete applications and required materials are accepted.

If an application is received after the deadline or, if for various reasons an artist is not accepted, said artist will be notified.

Artist registration will be form 8–9 a.m., Oct. 27. All artists must register and must have proper paperwork on file with the MCN Tourism & Recreation Department to participate.

For more information, please contact MCN Tourism & Recreation at 918-732-7993.

Learning our language, regaining culture: Week 2

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — The second class in Mvskoke language felt more comfortable. It was comprised of fellow beginners, so everyone was pretty much on the same level. I definitely felt more relaxed and more inclined to try to say the words and alphabet out loud. One problem is that our teacher, Daria Hicks has a soft voice so it is hard to hear her. She did use a microphone and speaker in the first class, so I hope she can bring it back again.

Many of the first terms taught to us are becoming familiar through repetition and an effort to use them when the everyday opportunities occur. The sounds are just a bit easier to pronounce. I had listened to and reviewed the language program on the tribal website until it got hacked and taken down for repairs.

Our lesson for the week has been to review the alphabet. These are the basic building blocks for any language: 20 letters, 20 sounds. Looking at them all together, it is hard to think about remembering them and getting the sounds correct. So, to make it easier for me, I break them into groups of four. Most of them are learned fairly easily, but the 'r' is the tricky one. Air is part of the pronunciation so it requires more than just producing the right sound. The study guide show it pronounced something like the consonants in 'ear-thly.'

Something I hadn't paid much attention to, are small cartoons next to the letters on the chart Hicks uses to show the letter. They are pictures of animals that use the corresponding letter in its name. E-fv is dog and there's the dog next to the 'e.' Adding "ce" to a word, Hick mentions, makes it 'little.' So I begin to think, "little dog—efvce?" I hope I got that right. So, the light bulb just went on, the fog begins to lift, the 'oh-yeahs' begin to form in my mind.

Hicks talked about the month and date. The words added new syllables in a combination that went right over my head. That's going to take some time and work to get right.

I've tried to use a bit of Mvskoke when I see and talk to family. Kinfolk are glad I decided to take the language course. Some of them wish they knew more Mvskoke.

My Minnesota Ojibwe wife has been supportive and has picked up a word here and there. Boy, will that be a shock to her northern family if she goes home speaking Creek.

Hvtm cehecares—I will see you again.

Hardridge's "Boy" takes first at Santa Fe Art Market

Photo provided/Starr Hardridge
Muscogee (Creek) artist Starr Hardridge's "Boy at the Edge of the Woods" won first place at the Santa Fe Art Market in New Mexico.

Muscogee (Creek) artist to exhibit award-winning Native work in Paris

Rebecca Landsberry
MNN Editor

SANTA FE, N.M. — For owner and operator of Architexture Studios Inc., Starr Hardridge, life is art and art is life. The Muscogee (Creek) designer recently won first place at the Santa Fe Art Market in Santa Fe, N.M., with his acrylic watercolor entry entitled, "Boy at the Edge of the Woods."

After studying at the Savannah College of Art and Design, in Savannah, Ga., Hardridge met his wife and fellow artist, Julie and the couple moved to New York to begin a decorative painting business.

"I feel like a satellite here on the Northeast coast and I've kind of taken it upon myself to reach out to other Native people . . . particularly in New York there's a number of Native artists that are settled in out there but they go back and forth between Oklahoma. They're just like me; they do their thing out here but they're really rooted back home," he said.

For Hardridge, painting provides an important link to his personal history.

"My heart is in my art," he said.

For Hardridge, his family is a part of his craft, literally. The boy portrayed in the winning piece is his son, Cole, who paints alongside daddy in the family's in-home studio.

"Art is my lifeline to my past and my culture. It's what keeps me connected," Hardridge said.

He described the cyclical influence of his art and background as well as other Native artists including Russ Tallchief (Osage) and Dana Tiger (Muscogee Creek).

"Everything that you've grown up with and everything about you, you carry that with you wherever you go. It's almost like a cultural baggage type of thing. I say that in the highest esteem. I'm not saying it's baggage that weighs you down but fills you up in a way," he said.

Hardridge prefers using water-based paint for his work but continues to explore artistic options including acrylic-based resin, a finishing technique used on his winning piece at the art market. According to Hardridge, the shifting popularity of the different media he utilizes also impacts his work.

"I've experimented with a huge range of materials over the years and so I'm constantly evolving and the art's evolving. I'm trying different modern techniques but trying to keep the ancient aspects true in what I'm doing . . . adapting, just like Creek people have done for thousands of years. We're constantly evolving and using technology but still keeping the identity there," Hardridge said.

Hardridge will exhibit his work at the Grand Palais Nov. 27- Dec. 2 as part of the Délégation Amérindienne in Paris, France.

MOVIE NIGHT!

ATTENTION:
MUSCOGEE (CREEK)
VETERANS
ALL BRANCHES

In Honor of Muscogee Veterans the VASO will be hosting
"MOVIE NIGHT"
(Friday, 19 October 2012)
• Showtime - 1900 Hrs.
Location - Veterans Building (MCN Complex)
Movie - "THE LOST BATTALION" (with Rick Schroder)
Drinks - Coke & Diet Coke (Free Of Charge) • Chow - Popcorn (Free Of Charge)
Smoking Lamp is Lit • Price of Admission - FREE (Adults only)
• Muscogee Veterans plus one adult guest
Any questions call Shawn Taryole at the MCN VASO (918) 732-7745

Craftsman makes living selling patchwork

Native American cultural items available from Semehobya Patchwork

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE — "I used to build houses for about 20 years but I got hurt on the job," Muscogee (Creek) craftsman Tom Barnett, owner and operator of Semehobya Patchwork, described the incident that led him to start his business making patchwork and crafting other cultural items.

He has now been selling his work for close to nine years.

"I originally just started this as a hobby," he said.

Barnett originally learned how to sew from his grandmother, but it was a challenge from his mother that led him to do patchwork.

"She had seen a Seminole jacket and wanted to know if I could make it. I told her that I would try and through trial and error, I finally got the hang of it," he said.

Patchwork is traditionally a Seminole style of clothing but many Muscogee (Creek) citizens wear it as well.

Barnett is three-quarters Seminole but is registered as Muscogee (Creek) and grew up around Okmulgee. However, his work is not limited to any one tribe.

"I make Creek, Seminole, Cherokee, some Choctaw and I've even started making some pow-wow regalia," he said.

Photo provided/Semehobya Patchwork
Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizen Tom Barnett, owner and operator of Semehobya Patchwork, presents some of his work.

His work is also not limited to cloth.

"I can make ball sticks, can and turtle shakers, yarn belts; I do a little bit of everything," he said.

He may have made his first shirt through trial and error but Barnett has had a variety of teachers for his variety of other crafts. Along with quilts, his grandmother also taught him how to make can shakers and yarn belts.

"I learned how to make ball sticks from the older guys. People ask how I learned all this stuff and I tell them I learned just by going and asking the elders if they would teach me. I learned a lot from them," he said.

Barnett currently works from home and takes call-in orders.

"I sell a few things to the Seminole Nation Museum in Wewoka. I used to sell stuff to the smoke shop there in Okmulgee and the gift shop at the Creek Nation Complex but they've quit buying from me," he said.

Samples of his work can be viewed on the Semehobya Facebook page at: https://www.facebook.com/pages/Semehobya-Patchwork-Tom-Barnett/400115506716182?ref=ts

To place an order with Semehobya Patchwork call Barnett at 918-804-1050.

Dan Brook: Mvskoke artist, businessman and daydreamer

Muscogee (Creek) artist displays work in Texas Christian University's newly renovated Amon Carter Stadium

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

DALLAS — "When people ask me what I do, I tell them I'm a professional daydreamer," said Muscogee (Creek) artist Dan Brook who specializes in sculpture and has done everything from the bust of Claude A. Cox at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Capitol Complex, to the Wood Guthrie statue in Okemah and the Trail of Tears Monument in Tulsa.

Brook's most recent work was a series of sculptures accompanying the remodel of Texas Christian University's (TCU) Amon Carter Stadium completed in August 2012.

The renovation of the 82-year-old stadium required the demolition of about 80 percent of the previous structure and was spearheaded by HKS Architects, one of the largest architecture firms in the United States responsible for designing other projects, such as Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

"I made a phone call to them when I heard they detonated [demolished] the stadium and sure enough, they were going to have some art involved in that project. It was really a privilege to work with a thoroughbred group of people like that," Brook said.

Brook was born in rural Okemah and attributes some of his talent to his Arcadian and isolated upbringing.

Photos provided/brookstudio.net
Pictured above is Muscogee (Creek) sculptor Dan Brook. Below are a few of Brook's featured works designed for Texas Christian University's newly renovated Amon Carter Stadium located in Dallas, Texas.

"There just wasn't just a whole lot to do out there when I was little, I just had pens and paper around and that was enough to keep me happy," he said.

He also credits his father for his artistic predisposition.

"He was a rancher by trade but he had a lot of inherent artistic gifts. I think that is really where my talent has come through; genetically and spiritually is from the native heritage on my father's side," Brook said.

Brook believes that inherent talent and love of the arts is something native to native people.

"There are certain wavelengths or sensitivities that native people have in general that I think is just a God-given thing. Creek people and native people in general really appreciate and respect art and the artist," he said.

This innate creativity is so much a part of Brook's being that he nearly defines himself by it.

"It has always been the case for me. When I wasn't working, I was dreaming up something to do. I was always known as a daydreamer and that is what every artist is. They go from the dream state to actually making things reality," he said.

Much of Brook's upbringing and training resembles that of times past. Brook continued fostering his talent under an apprenticeship with acclaimed sculptor, Dr. B.N. Walker.

He credits not only his Creek heritage for his natural talent but the MCN as an institution for giving him a big break early in his career.

"They have been very supportive to me over the years. I've had a couple of commissions from them that helped me get started," Brook said.

In 1998, Brook, as part of a group of eight people, helped start the Woody Guthrie Folk Festival in Okemah, Okla.

"It was my suggestion to construct a monument as a pivot point for that whole activity," he said.

Brook completed the Woody Guthrie statue in Okemah at no cost to the community with help from materials paid for by a local banker.

It is this goodwill that has helped him facilitate relationships that he holds in high value. Brook considers himself a daydreamer and a businessman as well.

"I look at my art as a business and consider myself a small businessman. Business is all about relationships and those relationships have the potential to be much stronger than any contract. That is what I'm after," he said.

Over a decade later, this philosophy has served him well. Brook now has a working relationship with one of the largest architecture firms in the country and still recognizes his tribe who helped him reach this success.

"I send my greeting to all the Creeks in Oklahoma and my thanks to the Creek Nation. Creek people are special people, you won't ever find a better friend than a Creek Indian," he said.

To view more of Brook's work visit his website at: http://www.brookstudio.net/

Muscogee (Creek) boxer proves successful in the squared circle

Vincent Baccus prepares for the Police Athletic League fight Oct. 8 in Toledo, Ohio

Darren DeLaune
MNN Sports Writer

KOTZEBUE, Alaska — There is a Muscogee (Creek) boxer turning heads throughout the amateur circuit.

Light-heavyweight Vincent Baccus from Okmulgee, Okla., now fighting out of Kotzebue, Alaska, is getting ready for the Police Athletic League which will be occurring on Oct. 8 in Toledo, Ohio.

Baccus has wanted to be a boxer since he was a child but resources were sparse.

"I have always wanted to box," Baccus said, "Growing up in Okmulgee and out in the Wilson area, there was not a lot of people who even talked about boxing. So I stuck with all the sports that were played around here such as basketball, football and baseball."

Relocating to Kansas is where he reconnected with the love for the pugilistic sport when he started going to school at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kan.

"I went to school at Haskell and played basketball and football," Baccus said. "After that was over with, I found a gym up there called the Haskell Boxing Club. I started boxing there about five years ago. The first year I wanted to work on techniques and getting the movement and footwork down. The next year is when I started to compete."

Baccus has had success in boxing, winning both the 2011 Golden Gloves in the Kansas City Regionals and Ringside Championships.

"My record is 14-2," Baccus said. "My ranking is fifth in my division and I hope to get a higher ranking after my next bout."

Baccus workouts can be considered extreme to some people but Baccus understands and knows what it takes to get where he wants to be in this sport.

"On days that I do not have to work, I call my workouts three-a-days. After I make breakfast for my family, I will try to get my cardio work done. I either run outside or workout on the treadmill and elliptical. For the afternoon, I work on weight training, speed or plyometric workouts. In the evening, I will do my boxing workouts. On days I do work, my lunchtime will be my cardio. After work I will spend time with my family and then go to my boxing workouts. Training is very different because I have to train alone," he said.

Baccus, credits the sport for helping him to bring balance to his life.

"Boxing has helped me a lot ever since I started training," Baccus said. "I had a lot of things going on when I first started boxing and dealing with a lot of stress in my life. And to be successful in this sport, you have to get the negatives out of your system and out of your life. Not just the negative stress but also negative foods. Foods that are bad for my health. When I did that, I started to get real good at boxing. I started winning more of my bouts and some tournaments."

He feels that life, like boxing has a lot of bumps and bruises that you have to endure in order to be successful.

"You cannot quit if something is in your way trying to stop you," Baccus said. "You learn how to fight through it and make yourself better. Boxing is similar to life. You are going to get hit. You are going to get knocked down. You have to get back up, learn from it, and keep going. Keep moving forward. God gave us talent. We cannot put that to waste."

Baccus feels that he will be turning pro soon. First, he feels he has some unfinished business in the amateurs.

"My plan is to turn pro in the very near future," Baccus said. "My goal is to win a few more amateur tournaments before that time."

Baccus (Creek) is a member of the Hvlpvtv (Alligator) Clan. His tribal town is Weogufkee. His parents are Tammy Harjo and Arthur Cato.

MNN/Darren DeLaune
Vincent Baccus, shown here with one of his championship belts, hopes to win another one Oct. 8 at the Police Athletic League (PAL) Boxing Championships in Toledo, Ohio.

OU Ruf/Nek returns to cheer on Sooners

MNN/Gerald Wofford
David Colbert, senior at the University of Oklahoma, is a proud member of the OU Ruf/Nek squad.

Muscogee (Creek) student enters senior year at University of Oklahoma

Gerald Wofford
MNN Feature Writer

NORMAN — Each football season, Sooner fans anticipate a touchdown tradition at each home game at the University of Oklahoma. The Sooner 'Schooner' makes its way onto the field after each score made by the home team. The Oklahoma Ruf/Neks proudly take the helm of the small covered wagon pulled by the two white Shetland pony mascots named Boomer and Sooner. After each score, the Ruf/Neks also fire replica rifles, filling the air with literal booming excitement felt throughout the stadium.

One Muscogee (Creek) citizen has been a part of this tradition since 2009. Senior David Colbert has been a member of the OU Ruf/Neks since his freshman year. Colbert tried for the squad when he arrived on campus and admitted he has always been an OU fan.

In 2011, Colbert was crowned 'Mr. Indian OU,' a title given by the Native American Student Association that recognizes high academic standards and involvement in extracurricular activities. Colbert said it is important for Native American students to become involved in campus activities no matter what college they attend.

"Don't be afraid to look at all the opportunities that your school has to offer," said Colbert, "when you get involved, it makes your college experience that much more fun and enjoyable."

Colbert, a former resident of Eufaula is a double major in the areas of business marketing and Native American Studies. He looks to further his studies in the legal field by becoming an attorney one day.

Protest

Continued from Page 1

He called them, "… a tribe that doesn't acknowledge the true tradition and culture of the Mvskoke people," and asked, "How dare them take the remains of our ancestors and make a show. How dare them question our mekkos…"

He called on federal officials to come and examine the area where the gaming enterprises are located near the burial sites, asking that they not be disturbed.

During a break in the proceedings, Tiger charged that federal agencies had fallen down on the job in enforcing laws protecting Native sacred sites, "I just think that there were some downfalls with some of the agencies. Had they done their job, we would not be having these hearings, in particular, the Poarch Band and that controversy."

He added that the MCN would continue to "extend an olive branch" to the Alabama tribe. He felt that group had discarded tradition in favor of financial gain, "I hope it's not all about money because the tradition and cultures of our people are priceless."

Thompson summed up his desire for the future of these disputed lands.

"Our stance has been, all these years, these people came up on the ground when it was in a natural state. We'd like for the remains to be put back where they were excavated from and remove everything. Just let the land go to nature. That's our stance," Thompson said.

Representatives from the Poarch Band were not in attendance.

Poarch Creek treasurer and head of government affairs, Robbie McGhee, released a statement Aug. 16 noting the connections to the MCN and the historic site.

"As an Indian nation with close cultural, if not familial toes to the Muscogee Nation, we are disappointed by the recent statements that do not accurately reflect the Poarch's efforts to maintain the site and preserve the ceremonial ground just as we honor the history and cultural significance of our shared heritage."

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For more information contact: Tammi Reed-Barnett
at (918)732-7883 OR email: tammirb@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

Oklahoma sees 65 new Muscogee (Creek) voters

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

MNN/Sterling Cosper
The MCN hosted a voter registration drive for tribal citizens and employees Sept. 25 as part of a statewide drive started by the Oklahoma Indian Bar Association to register Native voters during National Voter Registration Day.

OKMULGEE — There are at least 65 new Muscogee (Creek) Nation voters on the rolls for the upcoming election season.

That's according to Cherrah Ridge, Director of Community and Human Services who worked on a voter registration drive at the MCN Mound Building, Sept. 25 as part of a nationwide effort to turn out more Native American voters for the upcoming elections.

That's a challenge Ridge said, "I think we definitely need to encourage them to participate. Looking at our own tribal elections, we seem to have low voter turnout, so to increase national and tribal and local elections, as well, and having our Muscogee (Creek) citizens realize how important their vote is."

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) is backing the nationwide project to get more native people to go to the polls. Historically, Native Americans have not turned out to vote in the same percentages as other Americans but the trend is moving slowly towards more Native voters. According to NCAI estimates, there are an estimated one million eligible natives who do not vote.

Nationwide, a greater number of Native Americans have favored the Democrats over the Republican Party. The idea, said Ridge, was to get people registered, without any particular partisanship, "Looking at national trends, it looks like Oklahoma is more of a Republican state, which isn't always reflective of native tribes, but definitely the initiative is just to get people to vote, no matter which side."

Cindy Arechiga, registration clerk for the MCN Election Board, was working a table, assisting prospective voters. She was pleased with the turn-out she saw, "It's been very busy. It's gone along smoothly and it's fun. We've got lots of people and we want to continue getting more people." Arechiga confirmed that several first-time voters had signed up.

Joe Williams, attorney with the Oklahoma Indian Bar Association, was serving as a researcher, confirming the status of people who weren't sure of their voting status. He said voter drives for Natives were paying off, "I think so, through efforts like this. Whenever we have tribes and tribal organization like this take part in getting people registered, getting the word out, I think more Indian people will become involved."

He believes Indian people are becoming more politically aware and will become more of a political force in the future, "The more the Indian people get involved and the more that organizations like this can get the message, out, I think more people will see what's important and get more involved."

William's daughter, Brittany, helped with the event and said everyone should be registered. "I know what I'm voting for."

MCN Behavioral Health hosts inaugural Hope Walk

Photo provided/MCN Division of Health
The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Behavioral Health program hosted the first Hope Walk Sept. 10 at the capitol complex in Okmulgee, Okla.

Media Release
MCN Division of Health

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Behavioral Health Program hosted the first Hope Walk, Sept. 10 at the capitol complex.

The event promoted worldwide commitment and action to prevent suicide. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-TALK) network works with suicide prevention crisis centers throughout the nation. More teenagers and young adults die from suicide than from cancer, heart disease, AIDS and chronic disease combined.

More than 100 people gathered at Okmulgee and eight organizations were represented at the event. Also in attendance were MCN Second Chief Roger Barnett, guest speaker Becky Kruse and Alfred Berryhill who led a song and prayer.

Kruse guided the citizens in the walk and Roy Crandell conducted the lily remembrance ceremony for the survivors of loved ones who died by suicide. This event was designed to offer support and healing to survivors. Each attendee received a bag with information to access resources available to them and shirts to remind them that it's OK2ASK…for help.

Kruse represented her son, Adam, who took his life by suicide. She hopes to educate others that suicide is preventable, depression is treatable, encourage the public to learn the warning signs of suicide, be watchful and kind. She is reaching out to communities and providing hope to those in crisis.

She warned, "Most suicidal individuals give some warning of their intentions," and "The most effective way to prevent a friend or loved one from taking his or her life is to recognize the factors that put people at risk of suicide, take warning signs seriously, and knowing how to respond."

Behavioral Health Director Daley Tearl was pleased with the contribution from all participants.

"We hope to continue what we have accomplished today," Tearl said.

Suicide is the eight leading cause of death for American Indians/ Alaska Natives for all ages. Suicide is preventable and by participating in events like Hope Walk, more awareness will be brought to the Native community.

Interagency healthcare agreement aims to benefit tribal veterans

Photo provided/MCN Division of Health
Pictured at left is Lt. Seneca Smith, Secretary of Health of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Health with Principal Chief George Tiger who signed the legislation for the Interagency Healthcare Agreement with the Department of Veterans Affairs at the Jack C. Montgomery VA Medical Center.

MCN Division of Health and Dept. of Veteran Affairs agreement will provide direct health care service within clinics

Media Release
MCN Division of Health

OKMULGEE — On June 30, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Health entered into an interagency health program agreement with the Department of Veterans Affairs at the Jack C. Montgomery VA Medical Center (JCMVAMC) in Muskogee, Okla.

The interagency health program agreement will provide for a demonstration project that will reimburse the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Health as a participating Tribal Health program for direct health care services provided within Division of Health clinics.

The JCMVAMC will reimburse the Division of Health for direct care services to American Indian/ Alaska Native veterans who meet the eligibility criteria and that are enrolled for direct health care services with the Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration. Direct care services will be any health service that is provided directly by the Division of Health on site at one of the following clinics: Eufaula, Koweta, Okemah, Okmulgee, Sapulpa, and Wetumka.

To verify eligibility, patients are asked to speak with their clinic's Patient Benefit Coordinator.

Eufaula - Sharon Britt 918-689-2547 ext. 223

Koweta - Shelly Yargee 918-279-3215, Michelle Marsey 918-279-3222

Okemah - Susie Wind 918-623-1424 ext. 422

Okmulgee - Sonya Fox 918-591-5742

Sapulpa - Kyndra Bear 918-224-9310 ext. 244

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Community Calendar October 2012

Glenpool Indian Community to host Open Market Oct. 6

GLENPOOL — The Glenpool Indian Community will host a fund-raising bazaar Oct. 6 at the GCIC Community Building from 7 a.m. - 2 p.m.

The event is open to the public and will feature items for barter, sale or trade including flea market, garden and Native American arts and crafts. A concession will be available as well as limited booth space on a first come first served basis.

For more information, contact Eleanor Irene VanBuskirk at 918-946-0077.

Hanna Public Schools benefit gospel singing Oct. 6

HANNA — A gospel singing fundraiser event to benefit Hanna Public Schools is set for Oct. 6 beginning at 2 p.m., on Main Street in Hanna, Okla.

The Hanna Assembly Church will sponsor the event, which will feature a concession where donations are accepted. All proceeds will support the school's effort to purchase playground equipment.

All gospel singers and musicians are welcome to sit in. Attendees are asked to bring their own lawn chairs.

For more information, contact Dale Watkins at 918-657-2344 or 918-639-6013.

Dwight Mission all-school reunion Oct. 6

VIAN — The Dwight Mission School will host an all-school reunion Oct. 6.

Registration will begin at 8:30 and coffee and doughnuts will be served. Lunch will be served at noon. An R.S.V.P. is required and all are welcome to attend.

For more information, contact Levada Smith-Wildcat at 918-773-3096.

Okmulgee Elderly Nutrition to host monthly gospel singing Oct. 18

OKMULGEE — The Okmulgee Elderly Nutrition Center will host a Creek Singing Oct. 18 from 7-9 p.m., at the nutrition center building in Okmulgee.

The nutrition center hosts singings every third Thursday of the month.

For more information contact T. Jackson at 918-752-0952.

Hickory Ground #1 Baptist to host revival Oct. 1-5

MCINTOSH — The Hickory Ground Number One Baptist Church will host a revival Oct. 1-5 beginning at 7 p.m., nightly.

The evangelist will be Henry Busby Sr.

Refreshments will be served nightly.

For more information contact Jerry Powell at 918-777-1066 or Judy Montiel at 918-759-0430.

Native American widows support group meeting Oct. 16

OKMULGEE — A Native American widows support group meeting will be held Oct. 16 at the Okmulgee Elderly Nutrition Center from 6:30-8 p.m. Meetings are held twice a month.

For more information contact N. Deere at 918-756-4272 or S. Neil at 918-693-4551.

Buckeye Creek Baptist Church to host volleyball tournament Nov. 3

OKEMAH — The Buckey Creek Baptist Church will host a co-ed volleyball tournament at Mekusukey Mission Gym Nov. 3.

For more information call Tamara Berryhill at 918-623-8042 or Lucille Harjo at 580-641-2675.

MCN Office of Child Care to host fall festival Oct. 19

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Office of Child Care will host a fall festival Oct. 19 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the open field area on the MCN capitol complex south of the mound building.

For more information contact the Office of Child Care at 918-732-7680 or toll free at 1-800-205-3705.

MCN Office of Child Care to host culture day Oct. 12

OKMULGEE — The MCN Office of Child Care will host a free cultural day Oct. 12 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., at the south side of the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee. The free event will feature stickball and stompdance demonstrations as well as pottery and food.

For more information call 918-732-7680.

MCN Public Relations seeks citizens for open casting call

Media Release
MCN Public Relations

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Public Relations Department is holding a casting call for all tribal citizens.

Citizens of all ages are needed. The department will collect and identify each person and develop an archive to choose from.

Talent for video shoots for commercials, still photos for print media and actors for commercials or documentaries and public service announcements are needed.

Participants should provide the following: a current picture, a signed release for those under 18 years of age, or video of acting skills.

For those not able to supply these, a scheduled appointment can be made, which would include a photo shoot.

Submissions need not be professional and a resume is helpful, but not necessary.

A registry at the Public Relations office in the MCN Administration Building will be available.

For more information, please contact MCN Public Relations at 918-732-7617.

MCN Office of Child Care announces participation in USDA program

Media Release
MCN Office of Child Care

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Childcare is currently participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) offered by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The Muscogee (Creek) Nation community child development centers participating in this program are Tulsa, Sapulpa, Eufaula, Okmulgee, Holdenville and Okemah.

Meals will be served to all those in attendance at no extra charge to the parents and without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

In accordance with federal law and USDA policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write the USDA Director at the Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call 202 720-5964. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Historic tree stands despite Creek Country summer heat

Council Oak Tree Ceremony set for Oct. 20 in Tulsa

Gerald Wofford
MNN Feature Writer

TULSA — The heat of Oklahoma's Summer 2012 will never be forgotten.

According to EarthRisk Technologies, a weather analytics company based in San Diego, Calif., the Midwest experienced the most extreme and persistent heat on record since 1948 in the months of June and July.

Meteorologist George Flickinger of KJRH-TV Channel 2 in Tulsa said the state saw more than "35 days of 100-degree weather, which should not surpass last year's record that saw the thermostat reach above 100 degrees for 44 days during the summer."

The temperature impacted Muscogee (Creek) territory directly as local ponds dried up, affecting fish and other wildlife. Both state and tribal authorities issued statewide burn bans after the heat effectively dried up acres of land across the state. The dry conditions then made the elements right for recent fires that affected major parts of Creek, Okfuskee, and Tulsa Counties, which included many Native American homes and properties.

On the MCN Capitol Complex in Okmulgee a half-mile walking trail encompasses a scenic pond that serves as an oasis to animals. During the day, fish and turtles splash the surface and deer, raccoons and other wildlife cool off with a dip and drink in the evenings. This summer has been different with the pond nearly dried up.

Every form of wildlife has been greatly affected, with animal carcasses and floating fish remains lining the trail.

MCN General Services Administration representative Danny Roberts says the pond has a unique history.

"It actually used to be a dumping pond a long time ago," said Roberts, "people would just use it to dump their trash in it. Then whoever was in charge at that time decided to clean it up and made improvements to it, which of course, was needed."

Mvskoke Media/Archives
The historic Council Oak tree located at 18th and Cheyenne street in Tulsa preserved against the staggering temperatures this summer.

In Tulsa, the early August temperatures took their toll as well. The drought saw the Arkansas River virtually come to a standstill. The historic Council Oak Tree stands less than a mile from the river.

The tree was the first meeting point for the Mvskoke people after arriving in Indian Territory after the Trail of Tears and has stood for over 200 years. Oklahoma weather conditions have seen other trees nearby wither away.

Yvette Wiley, MCN Environmentalist Specialist, said the tree is healthy, despite the recent drought. "This is a mighty oak tree, it is an oak that is in very good condition."

Mike Perkins, Urban Forester with the City of Tulsa agrees with Wiley. He said the tree hasn't needed much upkeep in 20 years since he has been working with the city. "The tree has done really well," said Perkins, "We go and inspect the area and the trees around it, we leave the Council Oak alone, we keep it to a bare minimum."

Perkins pointed out that the low green branches are strong, "It's as natural as can be and because of its age, it is a trooper."

Perkins mentioned the gated fence around the tree helps keep the "root compaction" strong. This is accomplished by people not walking around it, which would risk a free flow of water and air space. Perkins also mentions the other extremity of the weather, the cold, and how the tree has been strong in those conditions as well.

"When we had the ice storm in December 2007 and we saw so many trees die or were severely damaged, not a single branch on the Council Oak was damaged."

Perkins says that the Council Oak Ceremony, which is usually held in October, also helps keep the tree in tip-top shape.

"I notice the pot ash around the tree and this contains potassium, this helps in the strength of cell structures inside the tree." Perkins said he feels the tribe picked the right oak.

"The tree sits on good fertile soil, a soil base, other post oak trees don't have that and they have died. A lot of those trees are brown in late fall and winter and they go into dormancy so they don't have any moisture loss. This tree doesn't show that. The tree is watched and if it showed signs of stress, the urban forestry group would have done something about it immediately, but we haven't had to do anything, even last year, it held up extremely well."

According to Perkins, new cables for lightning protection are the only need the tree is expected to have in the coming years. "We looked at the area and there hasn't been a whole lot of trees struck by lightning in the area, but when lightning strikes a tree it will strike a big one. It's not pressing right now to change the cables, but eventually it will need to be done to make sure this tree is protected."

Since August, rain has fallen on Creek Country, the pond is beginning to look like its old self. Temperatures are finally changing as the dog days of summer give way to the cool undertones of fall. In spite of the harsh extremities, the landscape of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation adapted and made it through another Oklahoma summer.

MNN/Gerald Wofford
Before and after pictures of a local pond located on the Creek Nation Capitol Complex in Okmulgee shows how devastating the heat and drought conditions were on Creek country.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT
FILED
2012 SEP 7 AM 10
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) N
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
J.B., DOB: 04-22-06)
)
Alleged Deprived Children.)

Case No.: JV 2010-08

NOTICE OF HEARING TO:

Michael Galloway, Natural Father of J.B.

YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that a Petition to Terminate Parental Rights has been filed against you in the above-styled and numbered cause and will be heard in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the **2ND day of November** at **9:30 A.M.**

YOU ARE HEREBY INFORMED that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the child remains a ward of the Court and custody be continued in the Children and Family Services Administration for continued foster placement of possible pre-adoptive placement. **YOU ARE FUTHER INFORMED** that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.

JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT CO
FILED
2012 SEP 5 PM
MUSCOGEE (CREEK
DONNA BEAV
COURT CLE

IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF:)
)
BRANDON BOUDREAUX,)
)
Petitioner,)
)
vs.)
)
SANDRA BOUDREAUX,)
)
Respondent.)

Case No. DV-2012-70

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: **Sandra Boudreaux**

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for divorce in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. DV-2010-70, styled In re the Marriage of Brandon Boudreaux, Petitioner and Sandra Boudreaux, Respondent, *Petition for Dissolution of Marriage*. The action alleges that the Petitioner is entitled to a decree of dissolution of marriage from you based on the grounds of incompatibility.

You are notified that you must appear at the hearing on the 2nd day of November, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. Failure to attend will result in the allegations contained in the *Petition* being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of Petitioner.

Given under my hand and seal this 5th day of Sept, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
By: Debie King
(Deputy)

(SEAL)

HALLOWEEN
FALL FEST
OCTOBER 28TH
FIGHT LIKE A GIRL
Proud to support the fight against breast cancer
$10 Match Play
2:00PM - 8:00PM
Hot Seat Drawings
5 - $100 Free Play Hot Seat Drawings every 1/2 hour from 2:00PM - 7:30PM.
Halloween Costume Contest
8:00PM
1st - $1,000
2nd - $750 3rd - $500
4th - $250 5th - $100
GHOULS GONE WILD
CREEK NATION Casino MUSCOGEE
3420 W. Peak Blvd. Muskogee OK 74401 www.creeknationcasino.net
Like us on Facebook! Follow us on twitter! "Luckstrikeshere"

Social Services no longer accepting walk-in clients

Media Release
MCN Social Services

OKMULGEE—The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Social Services Department will see applicants by appointment only beginning Oct. 1.

The department made the change due to an increase in phone calls, clients and applications received.

The client-based program receives hundreds of calls and client walk-ins each day.

The appointment-based system does not include the School Clothing Program or Social Security.

Department officials said walk-ins will no longer be seen, but exceptions will be made for citizens seeking burial assistance or those who have been a victim of a natural disaster such as a fire, flood, tornado, earthquake, etc.

Applicants requesting assistance must call and speak to a caseworker to determine potential eligibility.

If eligible, the applicant must make an appointment to see a caseworker. However, faxes will be accepted in certain cases. Applicants on the General Assistance program will need to call in prior to Oct. 1 to set up an appointment.

Beginning Sept. 26, MCN Social Services Department will be closed the last Wednesday of each month in order to complete casework. This does not include the School Clothing or Social Security programs.

The mission of the MCN Social Services Department is to counsel, advocate and provide referrals for Native American households to meet certain unmet essential needs. Social Services shall provide necessary assistance to eligible Native American households striving to enhance quality of life while promoting self-sufficiency and financial stability. Along with the new mission, goals have been placed and the department is working towards those goals.

Applicants seeking assistance around the Dustin, Weleetka, Wetumka and Holdenville areas may visit the Southern Regional Office for assistance with faxing documents to the Okmulgee office.

For more information, contact the MCN Social Services office at 918-549-2445.

School Clothing applications available through Oct. 26

Media Release
MCN Social Services

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation School Clothing Program 2012/2013, is now accepting applications until Oct. 26, 2012 at 5 p.m.

This program is open to all Muscogee (Creek) citizen students no matter where they live in the United States.

Call 918-549-2473 or toll free at 1-800-482-1979 for an application to be mailed or faxed.

All applications must be returned or mailed to: School Clothing Program, P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK. 74447.

Please do not fax or e-mail the applications.

For more information, contact the School Clothing Program at 918-549-2473 or toll free at 1-800-482-1979, ext. 2473.

Tribal Driveways Program now accepting applications

Media Release
MCN Tribal Driveways Program

OKMULGEE — The Tribal Driveways Program is accepting applications for repair of accessible driveways for property owners who reside within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation boundaries. Applicant must be enrolled with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation tribe.

Hours of operation are 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Friday. We are located on the Creek Nation Capitol Complex area between the Indian Health Service building and the old Head Start building in Okmulgee, Okla.

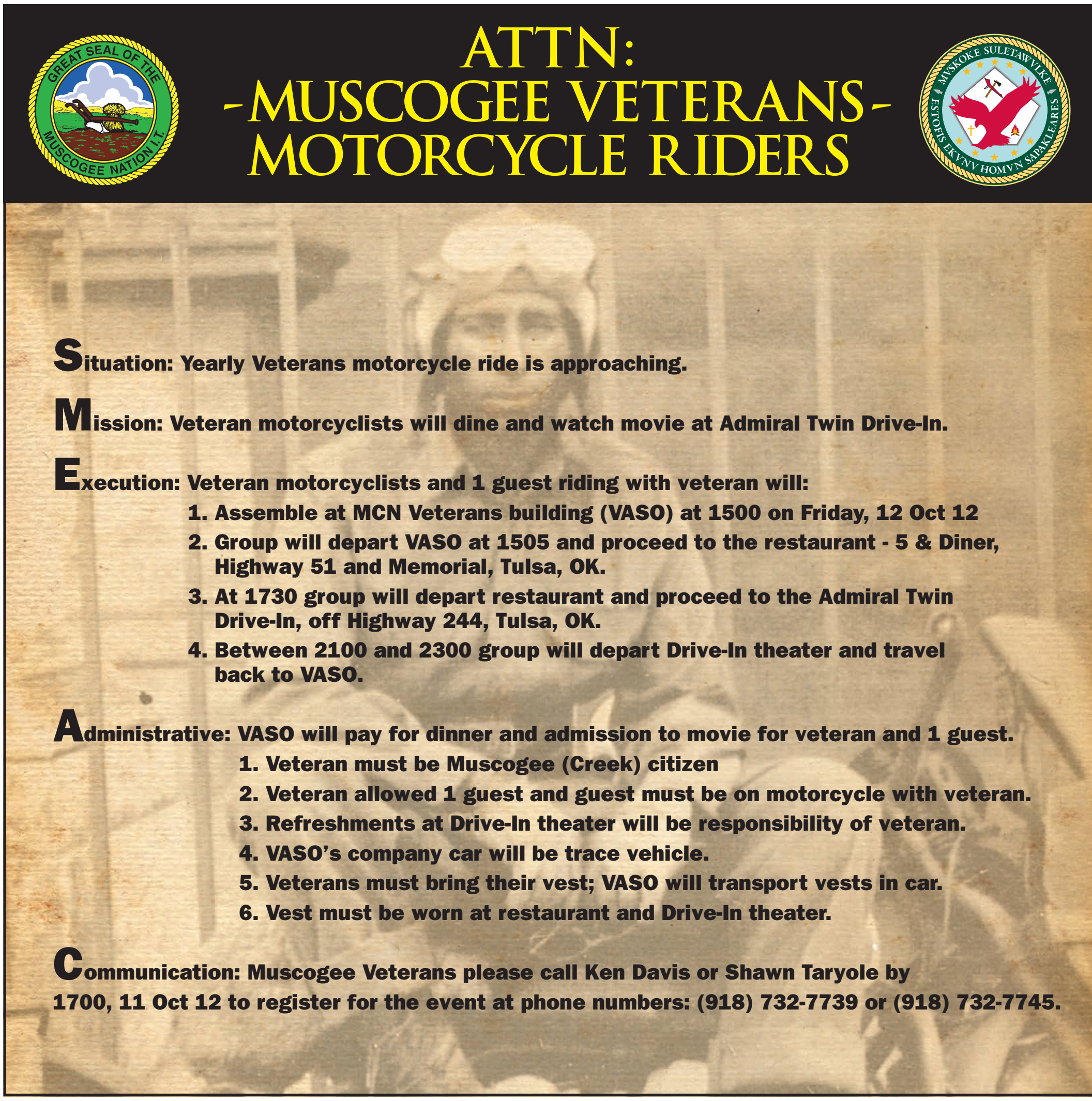
The Tribal Driveways Program addresses the needs of our Muscogee (Creek) Nation elders and tribal citizens that require services due to the poor condition of their private drives.

ELIGIBILITY: (Need copies)

1. Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizenship card
2. Warranty Deed (in Creek owner's name)
3. Oklahoma Driver's License or ID
4. Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizen will be limited to no more than one (1) service every four (4) years

Organization applications are also available for Muscogee (Creek) Nation ceremonial grounds, tribal towns, community centers, churches and when needed, family cemeteries that are within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation boundaries.

For more information or to request an application call 918-732-7651 or 1-800-482-1979.


ATTN:
-MUSCOGEE VETERANS-
MOTORCYCLE RIDERS
Situation: Yearly Veterans motorcycle ride is approaching.
Mission: Veteran motorcyclists will dine and watch movie at Admiral Twin Drive-In.
Execution: Veteran motorcyclists and 1 guest riding with veteran will:
1. Assemble at MCN Veterans building (VASO) at 1500 on Friday, 12 Oct 12
2. Group will depart VASO at 1505 and proceed to the restaurant - 5 & Diner, Highway 51 and Memorial, Tulsa, OK.
3. At 1730 group will depart restaurant and proceed to the Admiral Twin Drive-In, off Highway 244, Tulsa, OK.
4. Between 2100 and 2300 group will depart Drive-In theater and travel back to VASO.
Administrative: VASO will pay for dinner and admission to movie for veteran and 1 guest.
1. Veteran must be Muscogee (Creek) citizen
2. Veteran allowed 1 guest and guest must be on motorcycle with veteran.
3. Refreshments at Drive-In theater will be responsibility of veteran.
4. VASO's company car will be trace vehicle.
5. Veterans must bring their vest; VASO will transport vests in car.
6. Vest must be worn at restaurant and Drive-In theater.
Communication: Muscogee Veterans please call Ken Davis or Shawn Taryole by 1700, 11 Oct 12 to register for the event at phone numbers: (918) 732-7739 or (918) 732-7745.

BE THE VOICE

Presented by: Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program

OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program is hosting domestic violence awareness events throughout the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The events will feature domestic violence survivor panels, and will discuss ways that every community member can BE THE VOICE in an effort to bring about awareness and to ensure the safety of our women, children and our communities.

October 10, 2012	**1:30 p.m.**	**Muscogee (Creek) Nation Complex**
Registration	*12:30 p.m.*	**Mound Building**
October 23, 2012	**7:00 p.m.**	**Eufaula Indian Community**
		800 Birkes Road, Eufaula, OK

There will be door prizes and a limited number of t-shirts! Donations to the local domestic violence shelter are welcome and appreciated but not required. For more information contact Tania Bardin at (918) 732-7869.

This project was supported by Grants No. 2010-WR-AX0004 and 2011-TW-AX-0019 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this announcement are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

- Research indicates that American Indian women experience domestic violence at a higher rate than any other ethnic group.
- During a physical assault, American Indian/Alaska Native women were more likely to be injured than women of all other groups and more of these injuries needed medical care.

What is domestic violence?

Domestic Violence is a pattern of behavior used to assert and maintain power and control over another person through fear and intimidation, often including the threat or use of violence. Domestic violence can include:

Emotional/Verbal Abuse	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse
Name calling	Hitting/pushing/kicking	Forced intercourse/rape
Threats	Choking	Unwanted sexual activity
	Intimidation	*Any act that causes physical harm

The Family Violence Prevention Program provides a number of supportive services to victims of domestic and sexual violence including: court/legal advocacy, assistance in filing protective orders or in locating emergency shelter, safety planning, referrals and other services depending on each individual's needs.

If you are in an abusive relationship, please contact Family Violence Prevention at 918-732-7869 to speak with an Advocate.

Be the Voice. Speak out against domestic violence...Our Nation depends on it!

Inside the MNN:

Arts - Grounds wins Oktoberfest poster contest

Sports - Lightnin' Mike opens gym

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Gym - Page 5

Muscogee Nation News

Official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and a production of Mvskoke Media

First Mvskoke Film Festival recognizes Creek filmmakers

Native American filmmakers from around the country recognized for their work for the first Mvskoke Film Festival

Gerald Wofford
MNN Feature Writer

TULSA — Mvskoke Media held the first Mvskoke Film Festival Sept. 27-29 at the Riverwalk Crossing in Jenks. Native American filmmakers from around the country submitted films according to category. The categories were documentary, animation, short subject, feature and college film. Winners were then selected for each category.

The festival began with an awards banquet Sept. 27 to announce the winners. The keynote speaker at this event was Native American actor Chaske Spencer from the "Twilight" movie series.

Spencer spoke about the film industry, including the difficulty facing Native Americans aspiring to work in film and his own personal experience in becoming a successful Native American actor.

"You have to fight harder than the guy next to you that's not Native. I took classes and really threw myself into it. I watched different actors like Pacino and DeNiro," Spencer said.

At the ceremony, Muscogee (Creek) filmmaker Gary Robinson, a former Muscogee (Creek) Nation Communication Department employee, won first in both the documentary and animation categories.

MNN/Rebecca Landsberry

Pictured above is the cast of Director Bob Hicks' film, "Two Sisters." The film was awarded first place for short subject at the Mvskoke Film Festival awards banquet Sept. 27 at Riverwalk Crossing in Jenks.

Other winners included:

- Feature film first place "The Unrest" by Mark Williams
- Short subject first place "Two Sisters" by Bob Hicks, with second place awarded to "The Vision" by Maurice Powers III
- Documentary first place "The language of Victory," with second place awarded to "Fancy Dancer" by Harrison Lowe and third place to "Unheard Voice Stalking in Indian Country" by Vanessa Adams Harris
- Animation first place "Native American Night Before Christmas" by Gary Robinson
- College entry "Paranormal Investigators" by Socorro Gonzales

Screenings were held for submissions Sept. 28-29 at Riverwalk Movies owned by Muscogee (Creek) citizen Blake Smith.

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Oct. 15, 2012
Vol. 42, Issue 20
"Otowoskv Rakko"
Big Chestnut Month

Oct. 17 edition of Mvskoke Radio to highlight Council Oak

Media Release
Mvskoke Media

OKMULGEE — Local listeners can tune in Oct. 17 to Mvskoke Radio, broadcast Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m., on KOKL AM 1240 in Okmulgee, Okla.

This month's hour-long program will highlight the upcoming Council Oak ceremony in Tulsa on Oct. 20.

Scheduled guests will be Mekko Eunice Hill and members of the Tulsa Parks and Recreation Department.

Gary Fife and Gerald Wofford host Mvskoke Radio every Wednesday morning. An archive of the program can be accessed on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation website at www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov

Tribe moves toward tribal employment rights law

Daugherty estimates less than 20 percent of MCN contracts awarded to Native-owned businesses

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — An ordinance to mandate that Muscogee and other Native-owned companies get a preference in tribal contracts and employment was approved by the Muscogee (Creek) National Council Sept. 29.

NCA 12-198 is awaiting final approval by MCN Principal Chief George Tiger.

The tribe has been using what is called a "preferred list" that gives a preference for contractors and businesses, many of which are not Native American-owned business. During the National Council debate on the floor, Tiger said that's a situation he wants to change. "This offers an opportunity for our tribal members and other tribes that have business with us, to do business with us. I can assure you, this hasn't been the case in the past. In the past, it was the so-called preferred list, and I've seen that list. I believe I have seen, I assure you, a lot of estahvtkes have got jobs. We want an opportunity for our own to get these jobs."

The Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) has been a part of many tribal governments' development efforts, but the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) did not have one in place.

Rob Daugherty is director of the MCN TERO. He explained, "The law in place for other tribes was designed specifically to give its own tribal citizens who owned businesses a 'first shot' at any goods or services that the tribe is pursuing, whether it's construction or buying, contracting or purchasing something like office equipment, those kinds of things."

He noted that the law began as a way for tribes in the western part of the country to get more of their citizens employed with projects and industries working on their reservations. TERO laws have made an economic difference for the tribes that have them, "Other tribes who do have TERO programs have prospered real well in terms of providing those companies who are tribally citizen owned a first shot at those goods and services."

See TERO - 3

Mvskoke Language Program to implement "Train the Trainer"

Media Release
Mvskoke Language Program

OKMULGEE — The Mvskoke Language Revitalization Program will enact the "Train the Trainer" program Nov. 7 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Lunch will be provided and participants are asked to RSVP.

A generation away from losing the language, the MCN language program is asking for help to teach and preserve the Mvskoke Language (opunvkv).

Currently, there is one community resource teacher on staff and the program is unable to reach all communities. Citizens can help by volunteering to teach in their individual communities or by teaching family members. By teaching, these few can help revitalize the dying Mvskoke language.

Fluent speakers of the Mvskoke Language are invited to speak with Mvskoke Language Program staff. Teachers will be available to provide assistance with how to teach the language.

For more information, contact Koko Lowe at 918 732-7724 or Minnie Proctor at 918 732-7725.

MvskokeMedia

Muscogee Nation News Staff

Manager
Christina Good Voice

Editor
Rebecca Landsberry

Editorial Assistant
Gary Fife

Reporter
Sterling Cosper

Sports Writer
Darren DeLaune

Feature Writer
Gerald Wofford

Circulation
Wilma Lewis

The **Muscogee Nation News** is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Its purpose is to meet the needs of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to The Muscogee Nation News unless other copyrights are shown.

Editorial statements appearing in The **Muscogee Nation News**, guest columns and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of The Muscogee Nation News, its advisors or the tribal administration and are subject to editorial discretion.

Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Please contact our office for deadline of submissions to be considered for inclusion. The **Muscogee Nation News** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate The **Muscogee Nation News** in any regard.

The **Muscogee Nation News** is mailed from Stigler, Okla., to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

To submit a change of address or a letter to the editor, call (918) 732-7720 or send e-mail to: wlewis@mcn-nsn.gov

NAJA
Members of the Native American Journalists Association

Chaske Spencer: "I thought it was a 'cool' job"

Native actor and "Twilight" star speaks at first Mvskoke Film Festival

MNN/Rebecca Landsberry

Native American actor Chaske Spencer is pictured above while being interviewed by Muscogee Nation News Editorial Assistant Gary Fife. Below, Spencer smiles as his biography is read aloud before he presents at the first Mvskoke Film Festival as guest speaker.

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

JENKS — He originally wanted to become a photographer, but he ended up playing an Indian werewolf in the enormously popular movie "Twilight" series.

Chaske Spencer was in Jenks, Okla., Sept. 27, to deliver the keynote address at the awards banquet for the 2012 Mvskoke Film Festival and answered some questions abut his career, his Native American colleagues and the state of the art for Native people and images in the industry.

The inspiration to become a film actor for Chaske Spencer came from watching a lot of movies during his childhood and youth, "I think it was just watching a lot of movies as a kid. It kind of inspired me to check that field out. I originally wanted to be a photographer and that's what was my passion. Then I moved to New York when I was 21. I didn't fall into it; I think in the back of my head I always knew I was going to try acting. I just wanted to figure out how do you work your craft as an actor. In the beginning, I was horrible. I landed one play and it was just gut retching how bad I was, so I wanted to figure out how do you become better at it. So, I took some classes. If you want to become better, maybe you should check out a class or two, I started studying a lot. I really enjoyed it. So, yeah, I think it's the thrill of working a scene and learning about a character is what I like."

Spencer affirms that he wants his career to avoid becoming mired in the stereotypical Native roles, "I'm very selective on what I choose for film. I've turned down a lot of stuff if I don't feel right about it. I've got a lot of offers, like 'leather and feather' roles. You know, the breechcloth and stuff like that." He adds, he actually would carefully consider those type of roles if they were quality scripts, "If it was written really well, if it were something that hasn't been done before, I'd really consider it."

His role models were the big name Hollywood stars who delivered remarkable performances, and admired the work of a list of Native actors, as well, "The guys I liked were Pacino, DeNiro, I grew up watching Brando movies and Paul Newman. They weren't Native. It wasn't 'til later on down the road that Graham Greene came around and Eric Schweig. There was Adam Beach."

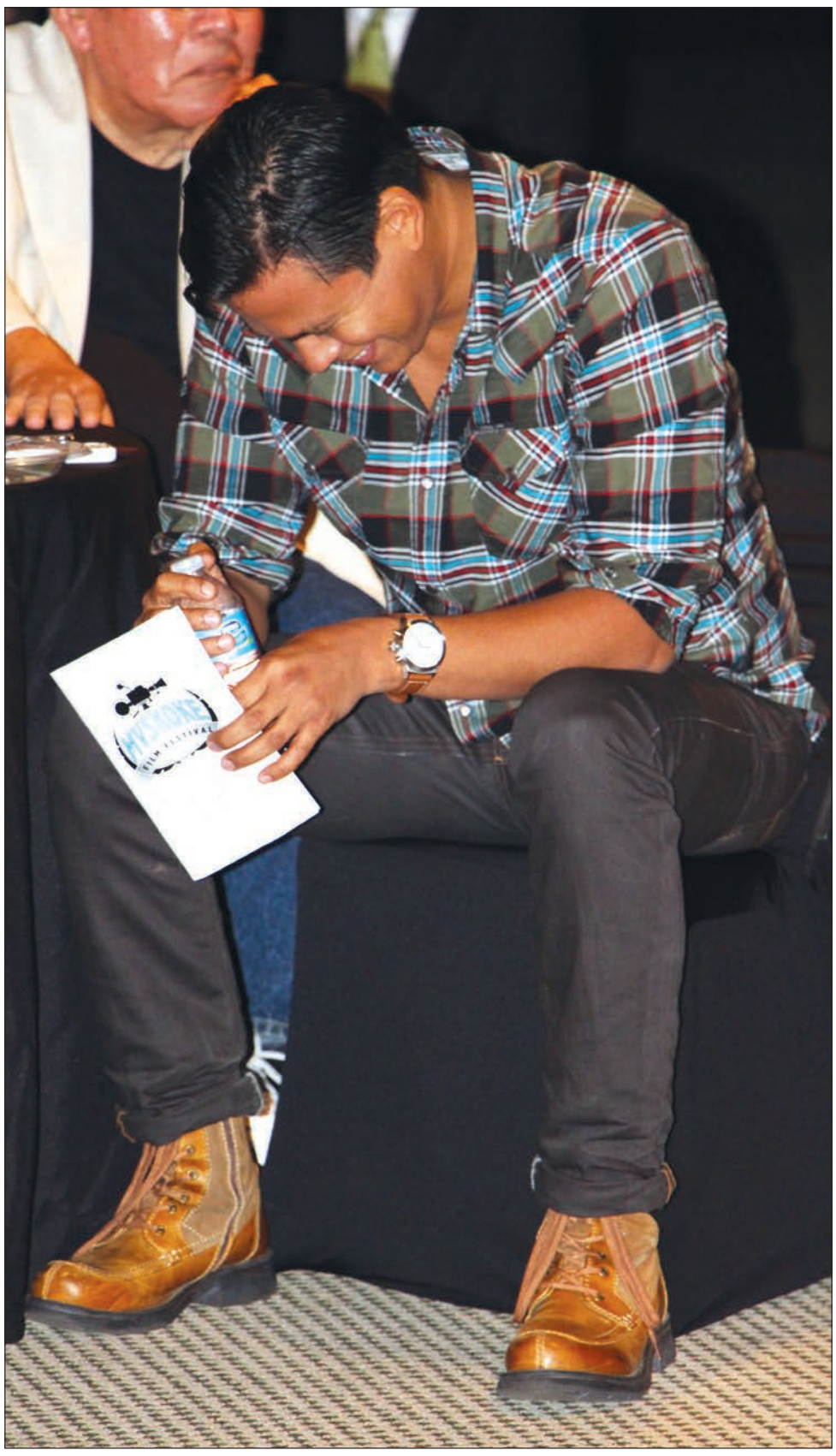
For a Native person, the challenge of working in the movie industry, he thinks, requires twice the effort and patience to earn some success, "You have an uphill fight going into Hollywood anyway, whether being in the business as an actor, producer or director. But I think as a Native actor and filmmaker or producer, the mountain is twice—or three times as high. You're already put into a box and you've got to fight your way out of that.

Trying to change the negative or stereotypical image of Native Americans in the film business has been a battle many Native actors have fought and continue to fight. Spencer laughed that it wasn't the reason he got into acting, "No. I specifically got into acting because it seemed like it was a cool job. I was a very naïve 21-year-old at the time, but it just looked like a cool job. Little did I know that in the beginning, you're broke, you're a waiter, you're a garbage man, a bartender."

In his case, the native advocate and role model is something he seemed to inherit, "I think the whole Native image as an entertainer, as an actor, I think it just sort of, was thrown onto me. I've seen it happen a lot with other actors, with Adam Beach, with Wes Studi and all those guys. They get thrown this thing to represent our people. It's great, it good. I'd like to try to contribute to that. At the end of the day, I'm just an actor. I just want to work. I got into the field for almost very selfish reasons because I like to play. You know, actors don't grown up. We're like these kids that just keep learning. Since the success of "Twilight", and I was lucky to get involved in that, it's put everything on a whole different level. Some days I get uncomfortable with it, because I don't represent all Native people."

"I'm pretty fortunate, very lucky to be where I'm at right now. I know that it could all go away tomorrow."

— Chaske Spencer



The "Twilight" movie series depicts vampires and werewolves and a love story between supernatural creatures and a human girl on a northwest Washington Quileute reservation. That story hasn't any real basis in native tribal folklore. Spencer said people should remember that it's only a fictional story strictly meant for entertainment value, "It's made up. It might have been based on a legend somewhere along the way, but it's like 'Lord of the Rings,' or 'Harry Potter.'

Spencer is enjoying his success now. More film projects are on his agenda and he said, he's able to pay the rent, keep a car and food in his refrigerator. That's a far cry from his early days and the scramble to meet daily needs. "Life's good. If I take it one day at a time, don't take it too seriously, it's really good. I'm pretty fortunate, very lucky to be where I'm at right now. I know that it could all go away tomorrow. I might be on a good run this year, maybe next year won't be that good."

Letter to the Editor

Citizenship cards can't be used at tribally-owned casinos?

TULSA — I, Toske Willits, have used my Creek Nation enrollment card to fly to Los Angeles, Calif., and back. I have used my MCN photo enrollment card to fly to Washington state and back. I've used my MCN photo ID in the Indian casino in Washington State. I have used my MCN photo to fly to Las Vegas and back. I have used my MCN photo ID to vote for who I wanted for president and on Sept. 19, I used my MCN photo ID to a player's card at the Sandia Casino.

Three flights, one voting but I cannot use my MCN photo ID to eat at the buffet at the River Spirit Casino. What is wrong with this picture?

Results of Sept. 28 National Council regular session

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE — The following is a report of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council regular session held Sept. 28 at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Mound Building.

• TR 12-123 authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement allowing the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) to participate in the Cherokee Nation Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program. Rep. Johnnie Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 12-124 authorizing the principal chief to execute the My-Health Access Network participation agreement to allow the MCN Division of Health to participate in a patient information sharing network. Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 12-125 authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the MCN and Indian Health Services (IHS) for employment of Tabatha V. Welker as commissioned personnel for the Koweta Clinic. Rep. Pearl Thomas sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 12-126 supporting the Yanomami Tribe of Venezuela and speaking out against the recent massacre and oppression of indigenous people. Reps. Kara Medina and Eddie LaGrone sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 12-127 authorizing the principal chief to execute a business associate agreement with scrimmage allowing the business associate to receive, use, obtain or access protected health information in the course of providing services. Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 12-128 authorizing the principal chief to execute a license agreement with Tyco Healthcare Group Lp under their royalty free option to allow the MCN Division of Health to use three Sequential Compression System Controllers. Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 12-129 authorizing the principal chief to execute a data use and electronic funds transfer authorization agreement with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for participation in the Comprehensive Primary Care Initiative. Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 12-130 approving the sale of beer at the Muskogee and Okmulgee Travel Plazas. Reps. David Nichols and Adam Jones sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-2 with Reps. Darrell Proctor and Keeper Johnson voting against it.

• TR 12-131 authorizing the principal chief to execute a closed captioning waiver between the MCN and Griffin Communications for programing provided to KOTV/KQCW. Reps. Jones and Sam Alexander sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 12-132 confirming the nomination of Bill Fife to serve as the Secretary of the Nation of the MCN. Reps. Jones, Franklin Coachman, Shirlene Ade, Lena Wind, Pearl Thomas and Alexander sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-2 with Reps. David Nichols and Dode Barnett voting against it.

• TR 12-133 authorizing Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise to manage the MCN's travel plazas and repealing TR 02-081, which authorized the MCN Trade and Commerce Authority to manage the MCN's travel plazas. Coachman sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 12-134 authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the MCN and Hughes County for improvements to the EW1390 Road Project. Rep. Thomas Yahola sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 12-136 approving the concept of working with other tribes to pursue Internet gaming opportunities. Ade and Nichols sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 12-137 authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the MCN and IHS for satisfactory domestic water supply, adequate wastewater disposal and plumbing facilities for 82 existing Indian homes in Okmulgee. Nichols sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 12-138 authorizing the Gaming Operations Authority Board (GOAB) to execute an agreement with I-5 Design and Manufacture Inc. for the renovation of the MCN casino in Duck Creek. Rep. Robert Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 12-139 authorizing the GOAB to execute an agreement with Red Stone Construction Services for the renovation of the MCN Casino in Duck Creek. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 12-140 establishing tribal membership in the Nation Congress of American Indians (NCAI). Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 12-141 authorizing the principal chief to execute a transfer agreement with the United States of American acting through IHS. LaGrone sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 12-142 authorizing the principal chief to execute a transfer agreement with IHS, Okmulgee County Rural Water District #4 and Muskogee County Rural Water District #5. LaGrone sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 12-145 authorizing the principal chief to execute a quote with Richard Wolf Medical Instruments Corporation for an endoscopic surgery camera and equipment for use at the MCN Community Hospital in Okemah. Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 12-146 authorizing the principal chief to execute a utility easement across tribal land for the construction, use and maintenance of a sewer line for an individual landowner in McIntosh County. Jones sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 12-147 approving the Muscogee International LLC amended formation documents. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 9-5 with Reps. Johnson, Nichols, Yahola, Barnett and Mark Randolph voting against it. Wind was out of the room.

• NCA 12-162 appropriating $855,250 to construct a new community building for the Dewar Indian Community. Reps. Nichols and Pete Beaver sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 12-174 repealing Chapter 1 of Title 16 entitled Organization of Executive Office of the Principal Chief and replacing it with a new Chapter 1 entitled The Organization for the Executive Office of the Principal Chief. Ade sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 12-185 authorizing a supplemental appropriation of $444,395 to the MCN Transit Program to purchase a chartered coach bus. Reps. Beaver and David Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-1 with Nichols voting against it.

• NCA 12-186 authorizing a donation of $2,000 to Paden Public Schools. Hill, Coachman and Wind sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-1 with Johnson voting against it.

• NCA 12-187 amending NCA 12-039 a law of the MCN authorizing a supplemental appropriation to the citizenship board to purchase a database system. Greene and Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 12-188 authorizing an appropriation of $15,000 to fund the costs associated with hosting the quarterly meeting of the Intertribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes. Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 12-189 authorizing the expenditure of community grant funds awarded from the NCAI to the MCN for the Division of Community Services. Greene sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 12-190 amending Muscogee (Creek) Nation Code Annotated (MCNCA) Title 17, Section 5-105 entitled Distribution of Profits, part of the economic development code pertaining to the MCN travel plazas. Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 12-191 authorizing a special appropriation of $250 to financially assist a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Alexander sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 12-192 authorizing a special appropriation to the Fishpond and Green Leaf Ceremonial Grounds. LaGrone, Nichols, Yahola, Wind, Johnson and Thomas sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 12-193 authorizing a special appropriation of $745 to a Muscogee (Creek) student to attend the National Young Leaders State Conference for the Mid-America Region. Nichols sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 12-196 repealing NCA 83-31 an ordinance of the MCN supporting, with conditions, the petition for the recognition of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians of Atmore, Alabama as an Indian tribe. All members of the council sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0, except Rep. Kara Medina who was excused from the session.

• NCA 12-197 authorizing a donation of $1,500 for the second annual Okmulgee County Community Baby Shower. Alexander sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 12-198 creating a new chapter under MCNCA Title 16 entitled Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Employment Rights Office Act. Greene sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 12-200 authorizing a special appropriation of $463,129 to the Okemah Indian Community. Wind sponsored the amendment, which passed 9-6 with Yahola, Barnett, Beaver, Greene, Johnson and Nichols voting against it.

• NCA 12-201 was postponed for 30 days.

LaGrone was excused.

MCN Community and Human Services announces changes

Media Release
MCN Community and Human Services

OKMULGEE — The operation of several Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) tribal programs has been placed under different departments and/or have changed locations.

The Elderly Nutrition (ENP) and Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Programs have transferred from the Division of Health to the Division of Community and Human Services. The ENP office is now located in the McCombs Building next to the Tourism and Recreation offices. The WIC offices have not moved. For more information regarding these programs please contact ENP Manager Lou Fixico at 918-752-9385 or Acting WIC Manager Katura Bunner at 918-758-2722.

Adult Protective Services has now transferred under Senior Services and their offices are also located in the McCombs Building. For more information contact Senior Services Manager David Dunson at 918-732-7699.

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) has moved to their new offices located at 600 Mission in Okmulgee. For more information contact TANF Manager Neenah Tiger at 918-732-7985.

The Family Violence Prevention Program (FVPP) is a reorganized Muscogee (Creek) Nation program providing advocacy and supportive services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking.

The program also serves as a community education and awareness in an effort to increase safety, achieve justice, and promote healing for individuals, families and our tribal communities.

The Nation is currently operating these services through three Federal grants and their offices are located in the Community Services building. For more information regarding these programs please contact Program Coordinators Shawn Partridge or Tania Bardin at 918-732-7869.

We appreciate your patience as we work through these changes to enhance the quality of service to our citizens and clients.

TERO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The TERO law doesn't grant automatic approval of Native bids for contracts, but if their bids are competitive, then the Native-owned business would be awarded the contract, Daugherty said. A process is being developed to insure that the contract winner is actually a 51 percent Native-owned business and not just a 'minority front.' That occurs when a person with Native ancestry has been placed as a "figurehead" business owner in order to meet TERO requirements.

TERO laws around the nation have come under criticism by non-Native business owners who complain that it gives Natives an unfair edge in the contract competition. That's something

Daugherty is aware of, but responds that where tribal money goes should be controlled by tribes,

"We as Native people always like to think that we should be able to determine who we contract out for such things. It is sometimes a sensitive subject to a lot of non-Indian businesses that have previously done business with tribes. All of a sudden, an ordinance becomes established where only Native peoples will be selected. That's not necessarily true, 100 percent, because even our Indian owned companies will sometimes submit a bid that is very inflated. My job is to protect Indian-owned and Creek-owned businesses, but at the same time, I have another hat that I wear and that's to protect the financial interest of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation."

He added, "It's Muscogee (Creek) money, therefore, our Muscogee (Creek) citizens should have preference."

Daugherty said the Cherokee Nation is an example of the results TERO laws can provide to a tribe, "With the casinos, about 13 percent of the business was going to Indian-owned businesses, prior to TERO. After the fact, when TERO really kicked in, they went from 13 percent to about 63 percent. The business that was conducted was going to Indian-owned companies and that's a 'win-win' situation."

Daugherty currently estimates, for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, the rate of business going to Native-owned companies would be below 20 percent.

METH. In Tribal Communities

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Manufacturing one pound of meth can produce up to six pounds of garbage. The waste can be toxic to humans, animals and the environment.

Report any meth waste or suspicious activity to your local law enforcement

Learn more at www.stoptribalmeth.org

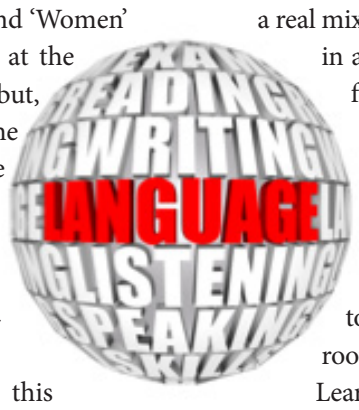
Montana State University Extension
Tribal Meth Education Training & Help Center

Learning our language, regaining culture: Weeks 3 - 4

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

WEEK 3: OKMULGEE — It's back to reviewing the alphabet and I'm happy to say I am able to remember about 19 of the 20 letters. For some silly reason, I keep forgetting to include the 17th one, the 'v—uh' that comes right after the 'u—oee' and before the 'w—we.' By checking with our handout list of the alphabet, I'm going to drill it into my head. Like the English alphabet 'u-v-w but no 'x' or 'z.'

I find I am beginning to make out some words and their pronunciation by sounding out the letters although I have got a long way to go. That takes some time for me. For instance, there are the Creek words for 'Men' and 'Women' on the restrooms at the Mound Building, but, I give thanks for the symbols on the doors or I could have REALLY been in trouble there. 2,000 mvtos.



I find that this week's notes are not much help. I wasn't keeping up with the instruction, while trying to mentally get words correct, so my notetaking suffered. I kind of scribbled many of them quickly, so they're not exactly legible and not necessarily attached to a single thought. I'll get them, though some of what I wrote down kind of looks like Cherokee.

Our teacher, Daria Hicks, spoke many words that I wish I remembered. I write down what I can to reference later. One thing she emphasized was to learn the letters, recognize them and know the sound. Writing them phonetically could present a problem because you aren't learning and reading them by sight as you should. This kind of crutch is not something I want to depend on but I admit it helps occasionally. I try and go back to write it correctly later.

Hicks has begun to teach us two-letter sounds and how this kind of combination can make up words by themselves, like 'fo' is bee, 'mo-mis' is "It is so." Again, I hope I got that right (or it is not so).

I have the list from the website language program and I'm repeating as many of the phrases as I can, hoping they can more naturally come to mind when I talk to other Creeks. Again, that's not going to come easily.

I greeted Chief George Tiger at a recent federal meeting and forgot to use the Creek phrases that are appropriate and I have been working on. Dang it. That's one of those situations where you mentally kick yourself in the tail for missing what would have been a great opportunity.

I'm going to buy the language CDs available from the language program and play them when I drive back and forth to work, to keep the sounds and words in my head. 25 minutes each way on highway 75 will be put to better use, I hope.

Hvtvm cehecares—I will see you again.

WEEK 4: OKMULGEE — Our class is making it easier for each other to participate in the weekly sessions. More of us are comfortable now. We're speaking up with questions, pronouncing the alphabet in unison, and individually responding to test questions posed by our instructor, Daria Hicks.

This really makes a difference. We're all there to learn the language and need these basic lessons. I sense there are some students with more ability in the language, but they are not being judgmental about other students who have much more to learn. There are management level professionals, support staff and some from other positions. It is a real mixed bag of people in attendance. That feels good, and I think the other students are also more comfortable and willing to work together (and root for each other).

Learning two letter combinations is where we're concentrating now. We're putting them into combinations to form words. Next come phrases. The answer to the questions such as, 'What month were you born in?' can be a real mouthful. I took some German in high school, so I had some idea of what compound words were like, so it felt somewhat familiar.

I was born on the 21st day of the Little Chestnut month, so it comes out something like: Oto wus kuce palen hokkelen hvmken. I hope I got the sequence right. I must admit there was some fumbling over pronunciation while I practiced. When my turn came to tell Hicks and the class the day and month of my birth, I got it right, I think. At least no one giggled. Like everything else, the 'year' is going to take some work. We got a preview of how the year 2012 is composed and how it gets pronounced. That takes about seven phrases. Yippee.

I felt kind of honored that Hicks mentioned I needed to correct the spelling of the name of the column I write for the Muscogee Nation News, "Emvponayv" to "Emoponayv."

It felt nice to hear that someone actually reads it. So, that correction didn't sting because she said that the spelling was wrong, but the content was OK.

I bought the language CDs. They are useful in the drive to-and-from work. They only pronounce the word once, so you have to really pay attention. They include phrases and numbers in the first ones. The more advanced CDs teach more conversational phrases from church, stompdance, family, hospital, school, foods and family gatherings. You can learn to get fed, respect your elders and a lot of other common uses. I doubt that I will ever learn enough to know what the elders are saying or engage in deep discussions, but I feel like I could get by with the basics.

It will take practice. I've tried to use the phrases I know, but I still keep mixing them up. So, I return to my study materials.

Past champ wins National Indian Taco honor

MNN/Gary Fife

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Della Proctor competed in the 2012 National Indian Taco Championship in Pawhuska Oct. 6.

"Good bread. Good meat and plenty of it. No skimpies."— Terri Begay

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

PAWHUSKA — The most important ingredient in a championship Indian taco is the frybread.

Practically every contestant interviewed repeated the same thing: it's the bread that makes the best Indian taco. That was the word on a very cool Pawhuska morning, Oct. 6. where 16 contestants battled it out to see who cooked up the best in the National Indian Taco Championship.

Downtown Pawhuska was filled with the smells of frying bread, bubbling chili and chopped onions as the entrants prepared their best to offer to the judging panel.

Deedee Lookout, won the taco championship three times in the past and described the perfect piece of frybread, "One that's not greasy; it's fluffy and one that you're going to get full on when you eat your taco."

Paula Mashunkashey, from Pawhuska, said she enters the competition for the love of it, "We love it. It's just a family thing that we do. It's fun."

Her opinion of the championship taco, "I think it's all in the frybread. It's not in the meat; it's not in the toppings. I think it's all in the bread, because I've talked to judges before, that have judged in the past and they said, if you get ahold of a greasy piece of frybread, that's a no-no. I think it's all in the bread, and I make the best."

Terri Begay entered because her daughter thought it would be fun. She agreed that the basis for a winning Indian taco is the frybread and generous portions, "Good bread. Good meat and plenty of it. No skimpies." She likes her bread, "crispy on the outside, kind of bread-like on the inside, but not too thick."

Della Proctor, a Muscogee (Creek) woman, was trying her hand, "Trying to fight my way in with the Osages on their frybread."

Friends and family had encouraged her, praising her frybread, so she was there to prove it. Her thoughts on a winning taco: "I think frybread – the kneading of it, the consistency and 'puffiness' of it—that makes good frybread to me and kind of crispy, too."

She changed her meat recipe for the contest, "The taco meat that I use, I did a different variation of it. I added my beans to my meat this year, instead of separate, because that's how they like it here."

Paula Stabler is publicity manager for the National Indian Taco Championship. She remembers a small start for the contest and it growing steadily. It seemed like an ideal spotlight for Pawhuska, "It started out for just a fun local event, 'Let's get together and have some competition over some frybread and some tacos.' Then we saw that it was an iconic idea that nobody had going anyway else. So, we started spreading the word around, and starting getting a lot of interest in it. So, we got down to, 'what's the purpose of this,' It's really to let people know about our town and the things to do here.' "

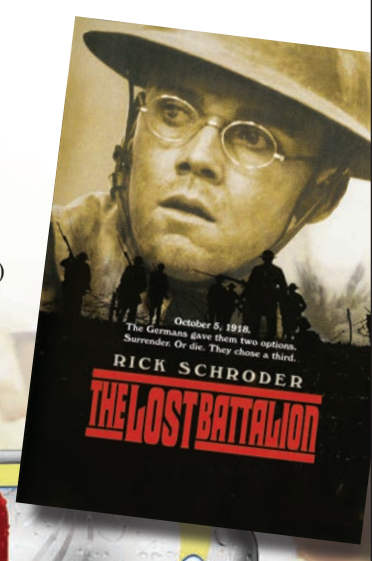
She ventured a thought on what makes a winner, "I think it's the creativity of the toppings, but you can't forget, it's got to be a good piece of bread. It's got to be an excellent piece of bread. You've got to be able to cut it with a fork, great texture and that great flavor to go with it. It's got to be able to support your toppings."

At the end of the day, it was Deedee Lookout who won first prize as the 2012 National Indian Taco Champion. Her entry took home the first Place prize of $300. Beatrice Realrider won second place and $200, with Deda Oliver-Lookout taking third place and $100.

MOVIE NIGHT!

ATTENTION:
MUSCOGEE (CREEK)
VETERANS
ALL BRANCHES

In Honor of Muscogee Veterans the VASO will be hosting
"MOVIE NIGHT"
(Friday, 19 October 2012)
• Showtime - 1900 Hrs.
Location - Veterans Building (MCN Complex)
Movie - "**THE LOST BATTALION**" (with Rick Schroder)
Drinks - Coke & Diet Coke (Free Of Charge) • Chow - Popcorn (Free Of Charge)
Smoking Lamp is Lit • Price of Admission - FREE (Adults only)
• Muscogee Veterans plus one adult guest
Any questions call Shawn Taryole at the MCN VASO (918) 732-7745



Grounds wins Oktoberfest poster contest second consecutive year

Muscogee (Creek) artist Steven Grounds wins Tulsa Oktoberfest poster contest for the second straight year

Photo provided/Steven Grounds
Muscogee (Creek) artist Steven Grounds signs a copy of his artwork, which was chosen for the second consecutive year as the winner of the Tulsa Oktoberfest poster contest.

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

TULSA — Muscogee (Creek) artist Steven Grounds was recently chosen as the Tulsa Oktoberfest poster contest winner for the second year in a row. The winning artwork in this annual contest is used on a variety of promotional items for the event.

"I felt like it was a good experience going through the process of working on the poster again this year," Grounds said.

Both of Grounds' winning pieces are portraits and were created with similar mediums.

"It ended up evolving into kind of a series concept between last year's and this year's poster. You can see sort of a progression," he said.

Grounds strived for progress and improvement in this year's portrait.

"This year I really wanted to do more with it than last year. I wanted to riff off of what I did last year and improve on it and spend more time," he said.

Winning two years in a row also gave Grounds the advantage of having an existing rapport with the Oktoberfest board and executive committee, which helped him to further develop his concept once his initial draft was chosen as a winner.

"There are certain cultural elements based on the Bavarian culture they were looking for, that I had to do research on. They were able to act as consultants, and we made sure that everything was accurately represented," he said.

Success in this contest may have required Grounds to research a foreign culture, but his Creek heritage is something he closely identifies with.

"It's from my dad's side, he actually works at the Nation. He's been able to tap into some resources and help me with getting involved in the Creek Festival," he said.

Grounds has had a booth at the festival for a few years displaying his artwork. He credits this with helping him gain early exposure.

"It helped get the word out to show people what I do like print shirts," he said.

A suggestion from a friend convinced Grounds to participate in the Oktoberfest poster contest the first year, helping him further his exposure as an artist.

"Someone tapped me on the shoulder and said that I should try it because they were a fan of Oktoberfest. It ended up being a lot more work than I thought, but it was worth it because of the media coverage and the exposure that I don't regularly get," he said.

He currently works a day job in Tulsa, but Grounds dedicates a good portion of his personal time to his artistic training, most of which has come from personal study.

"I go home and experiment with different mediums and pretty much try to teach myself. I have a little bit of a background in taking art classes in college but I was really never able to declare it my major because we never had any four-year degree art programs," he said.

Grounds addressed the question of whether or not he would enter the contest next year.

"It came up at the unveiling but I didn't answer," he said.

Mvskoke Media's movie review: "Looper" receives four frybreads

Mvskoke Media's monthly movie review on director Rian Johnson's "Looper"

Gerald Wofford
MNN Feature Writer

JENKS — The movie "Looper" is a science fiction thriller set in the future with a bit of a cerebral beginning and ending that contains great action sequences. One can't help but think of past science fiction thrillers and one movie in particular that comes to mind is "The Terminator" from the 1980s.

The premise of "Looper" is for a futuristic gangster named Joe Simmons (his name even sounds like the traditional movie gangster) played by the young Joseph Gordon-Levitt. Some may remember Gordon-Levitt who played the son in the television series "3rd Rock From the Sun" from a few years ago as well as his role in movies such as "G.I. Joe" and "Brick."

The year is 2042 and the ability to time travel has been invented, however, it has been deemed illegal by authorities. That doesn't stop underground mob armies and the like from using it for their own personal gain. The criminals go back in time and 'eliminate' people that aren't with the program. This helps the mob and their plans.

The way the mob helps eliminate people is to send an assassin or looper to do the job. Gordon-Levitt is hired as a looper, proves to be quite successful, and garners a serious reputation. Eventually, all things must come to an end and the loopers find that their demise is also part of the mob's plan after their duties are no longer needed.

The remedy for this is to send Joe Simmons future self, played by veteran action star Bruce Willis, back in time to carry out the task. Deed is done, problem solved. . . unless the looper doesn't want to carry out his own execution. Then a small army is sent to make sure the job is carried out. Of course, action follows. It is this basis that makes "Looper" fast paced but keeps the audience thinking throughout the story. Plus the cast plays great parts too, with the love interest played by Emily Blunt, who gets to know both the younger and older Joe.

If you like science fiction action along with a well-paced plot, you will enjoy this movie. So out of a possible five fry-breads, we're giving Looper a four.

For the listings of this and other films at Riverwalk Movies or the Admiral Twin Drive-In, visit the website at: www.selectcinemas.com

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- Sound through your FM Radio
- Come early, stay late!

Showtimes, prices, directions: 918-392-9959
Visit us at SelectCinemas.com!
selectcinemas
MvskokeMedia

Native Made Art Festival set for Oct. 27 in Jenks

Media Release
MCN Tourism & Recreation

JENKS — The inaugural Native Made Art Festival will be held at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Riverwalk in Jenks, Okla., from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Oct. 27.

Booth spaces are limited and free of charge and will be granted on a first come, first served basis.

This is an outdoor event. All spaces are outside, provided a 10'x10' canopy and are limited to one per participant. Artists should prepare for wind or other inclement weather occurrences.

Artists should include four photos of recent artwork and a complete biography including information about the artwork and where it has been exhibited.

In order to be considered for a booth space, artists must donate a piece of their artwork to be used at the silent auction at the MVSKOKE Hall of Fame Induction Gala (fund raiser for the Creek Nation Foundation, Inc. and the MCN Annual Festival), Oct. 11, 2012.

All donations must be delivered to the MCN Tourism & Recreation Office.

All artwork must be original work of registered artist. No manufactured, imitation craft items or objects made from commercial kits, patterns or molds will be accepted. Items made from endangered species may not be exhibited.

Any unacceptable merchandise be removed. All artwork must be properly represented to the buyer. Any artist who misrepresents himself or his artwork and/or who does not abide by the rules and regulations set forth will be asked to leave the festival.

Artists will be notified as complete applications and required materials are accepted.

If an application is received after the deadline or, if for various reasons an artist is not accepted, said artist will be notified.

Artist registration will be form 8–9 a.m., Oct. 27. All artists must register and must have proper paperwork on file with the MCN Tourism & Recreation Department to participate.

For more information, contact MCN Tourism & Recreation at 918-732-7993.

NATIVE MADE
ART FESTIVAL

MCN Division of Health IT Department presents at annual conference

Photo provided/MCN Division of Health

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Health presented findings on the implementation of electronic health record in Indian Country at the annual Consumer Conference in Denver, Colo., Sept. 27. Pictured left to right are Kris Krueger, Becky Whitlow, Brandy Cunningham and Robert Coffey.

Media Release
MCN Division of Health

DENVER — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Health Information Technology staff gave a presentation at the National Indian Health Board's 29th Annual Consumer Conference in Denver Sept. 27.

The presentation, "Implementing an Electronic Health Record in Indian Country: The Good, Bad and Ugly" focused on the transition from the Resource and Patient Management System (RPMS) to NextGen and how it has benefited the health system.

"As we strive to be a leader in Indian health, we have faced many challenges as well as rewards," said Robert Coffey, Chief Information Officer. "Being the first tribe in Oklahoma to move away from RPMS has provided many opportunities to learn new lessons."

Other Division of Health presenters Brandy Cunningham, Kris Krueger and Becky Whitlow reiterated the same thoughts by acknowledging the honor to share their knowledge and experience to a national level of healthcare officials.

RPMS is the original software used by the Indian Health Service to provide patient care. The software created a database for each separate clinic. Providers were not able to look at a patient's record from one facility without logging in and logging out to review that patient's record. NextGen is the cutting edge leader in healthcare technology that the MCN Division of Health implemented to provide state of the art health care to patients. It allows the system to have one patient record for patients to provide improved consistent care. It also allows the staff to log in one time to see the patient's history of care at any of the six facilities, making patient care more efficient.

Lightnin' Mike Cooper opens Gym of Champions

MNN/Gerald Wofford

Jacob Cooper trains on the speed bag, one of the many amenities at Lightning's Gym of Champions. Below is Muscogee (Creek) citizen Mike Cooper trains Marissa Brooks at Lightning's Gym of Champions in Tulsa.

Lightnin' Mike Cooper wants to get Indians in shape

Gerald Wofford
MNN Feature Writer

TULSA — A Muscogee (Creek) warrior is making sure fellow tribal members live a healthier lifestyle. Mike Cooper, aka 'Lighting Mike' has opened a gym in Tulsa that allows people get in shape and release a little 'steam' if needed.

"I structure my training sessions toward boxing and MMA," said Cooper.

"I have other ways that people can exercise, but this is a unique way that everyone can enjoy a special work out."

Lighting's Gym of Champions officially opened in June 2012.

Cooper's captured an amateur state golden gloves championship and after turning professional, he garnered a record of seven wins, one loss and one draw. Cooper is certified in the fields of personal training and sports nutrition and served as a personal trainer to companies such as Bama Pie Company. When he's not training clients, Cooper also trains local fighters.

Cooper's gym features the standard gym equipment, in addition to speed bags, punching bags, weights and an atmosphere that is second to none for those who are ready to sweat.

When the gym opened, the two newest members, Marissa Brooks and Belinda Hernandez immediately signed up. Hernandez knew Cooper when he was a trainer at the Bama Corporation. Since they joined, Brooks has lost 60 pounds while Hernandez has shed 50. "This is such a nice atmosphere to do your work outs," says Hernandez, "Mike is a great teacher and his workout routines change everyday so you don't get bored."

The Muscogee (Creek) warrior says that he enjoys helping people to succeed in their fitness goals, "I like meeting new people, especially when it comes to their new fitness goals.

"There's no reason why Indian people should not be taking better care of themselves and that's what I'm doing here."

Lightnin' Mike Cooper's gym is located at 3312 East 39th Street and Harvard in Tulsa. For more information, contact Cooper at 918-289-6167 or by email at: lightningm21@gmail.com.

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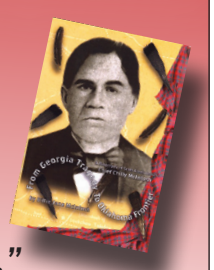
From Georgia Tragedy to Oklahoma Frontier
A Biography of Scots Creek Indian Chief Chilly McIntosh
by Muscogee (Creek) author Billie Jane McIntosh
• Chilly McIntosh Family
• Photos, maps and documents
• Muscogee Creek tribal history 1800-1875
- Alabama
- Georgia
- Indian Territory

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For more information contact: Tammi Reed-Barnett
at (918)732-7883 OR email: tammirb@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

OBITUARIES

HANK INGRAM

WELEETKA — Lawrence Hank (Spanky) Ingram was born Nov. 24, 1951 in Holdenville to James Lee Ingram and Nora Burgess Ingram and passed from this life Sept. 24, 2012 in Okemah at the age of 60.

Ingram was raised in Weleetka and Holdenville and attended the Weleetka School. As a young man he was married to Margie Scott and to this union two children were born, Johnny Lee and O-Han-Sica Tresa.

Margie; his parents; a brother, John; a son, Montie Scott; a grandson, Jason Anderson and a great grandson, Nate Littledeer, preceded him in death.

He spent much of his life in the McLoud area with his family. He worked as a laborer at various construction sites. He was also an ordained minister and served the church as an evangelist under the training of Rev. Redmond Wolfe of the Little River Church in Seminole. He traveled across the country holding revival meetings.

Hank was very artistic and loved to draw, sing, and dance. He sometimes made up his own songs, especially humorous ones. He was a funny guy and loved to play pranks on his family and friends. He was very proud of his Creek heritage and spoke the language fluently, which he shared with his family often. He was very outgoing and seemed to never meet a stranger. He had been living at the Okemah Care Center where he loved all the residents and they loved him as well. They were just like his family.

Survivors include: his sister Kathi (Ingram) Butler and husband Bill of Tulsa; his children, Gada (Moppin) McGirt of Norman, Johnny Lee Ingram of Helena, and O-Han-Sica Tresa Ingram of Taft; his grandchildren, Kashina (McGirt) Littledeer, Keona McGirt, Kierra McGirt, Phoenix McGirt, DeAngelo Brinson, DeKovin Brinson, Alisia Brinson, and Gracie Potts, all of Norman, and Dominique Bear of Shawnee; along with several nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and many friends.

Funeral services were held at the Williamson-Spradlin Funeral Home Chapel in Wetumka with Rev. Danny Faulkner officiating. Interment took place at the Fairlawn Cemetery in Weleetka under the direction of Williamson-Spradlin Funeral Home of Weleetka and Wetumka.

REV. RAYMOND JOHNSON

DALLAS, Texas — Rev. Raymond Troy Johnson was reunited with our Savior The Lord Jesus Christ Sept. 28, 2012.

He was born Lamar, Okla., June 11, 1927 to Wesley and Anna Johnson.

As minister of the Assemblies of God, he served as the pastor of The Dallas Indian Revival Center, the Associate Pastor of Glad Tidings Assembly of God and as pastor of Chihowa Chuka, in Wright City, Okla. He also held special worship services in nursing homes for decades.

As a loyal servant of the Lord, he ministered and counseled many. He introduced numerous people to the word of God and the path to everlasting life and was always there for anyone in times of need regardless of the time of day or circumstance. His faith, spirituality, and personality were an inspiration and an example to all he came into contact with.

He retired from the Veterans' Administration Medical Center after 38 years of service. He also owned and operated Complete Artificial Eye Service for over 40 years.

As a member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, he lobbied in Washington D.C., for assistance to ensure quality healthcare and social services to address the specific needs of the Native American population in the metroplex. He served as Chairman of the Board of Directors and was a Co-founder of the Dallas Inter-Tribal Center Oak Cliff in Dallas, Texas.

He attended school in Lamar and Holdenville.

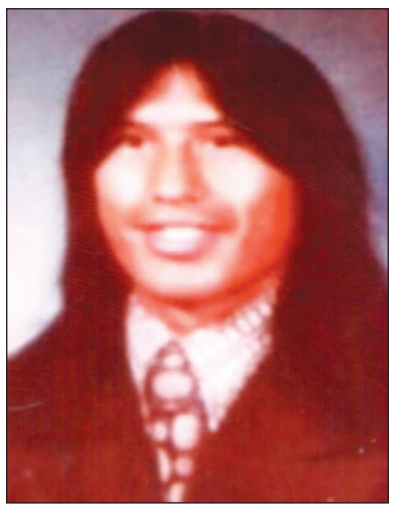
A Navy Veteran of World War II and Korea, he received the WWII Victory Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, Navy Occupation Medal, United Nations Medal and Korean Service Medals.

He is survived by his loving wife, Jean, who cared for his every need in their home during his last months, his adoring daughter, Diane Coleman Robertson, and her husband Tom W. Robertson III, grandson Chad Fowler and his wife, Darla, granddaughter Christi Boyer and her husband, Brad, three great granddaughters Lauren Dobbs, Carli Nix, Madison Boyer and one great-great grandson, Logan Dobbs, brothers Charles, John, Nelson and sisters Estelle Thompson and Helen Hair.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his first wife, Jaunelle Johnson.

He will be missed by all that had the privilege to know him.

THOMAS LASARGE



SAPULPA — Thomas LaSarge, a resident of Sapulpa, passed away Saturday, Sept. 22, 2012 at the age of 55.

He was born May 11, 1957 to Burban Jerome and Lucy (McIntosh) LaSarge in Claremore, Okla.

He graduated from Sequoyah High School in 1976 and attended school in Maine as an exchange student. Thomas was a well-known artist and loved to paint. He enjoyed playing pool. He played softball, football, basketball, baseball, volleyball, boxing, golf and wrestling. He was a member of the Okmulgee Indian Baptist Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Burban Jerome and Lucy LaSarge; brother, Daniel LaSarge; sister, Cindy Sutton; sister-in-law, Norma LaSarge and sister-in-law, Patricia LaSarge.

Survivors include wife, Susan LaSarge of the home; children, Amos LaSarge of the home, Jackie LaSarge of the home, Clarence LaSarge of Philadelphia, Trinidad Littlebear of the home, Frank Watashe of the home, Twainna Proctor and husband, Bryon of Dewar and Tomasina LaSarge and husband, Curtis Cargill of Bristow; sisters, Brenda LaSarge of Okmulgee and Rebecca Pogue of Bartlesville; brothers, Butch LaSarge and wife, Barbara of Okmulgee, Charley LaSarge and wife, Della of Okmulgee; Ronnie LaSarge of Durant and Allen LaSarge of Durant; grandchildren, Allison, Kristen, Bryanna and Jayden Proctor, Nicholas and Gavin Cargill; numerous other nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and other relatives.

Wake Services were held 7p.m., Sept. 25 at the Tallahassee Indian Methodist Church in Okmulgee.

Funeral Services were held at 1 p.m., Sept. 26 at the Tallahassee Indian Methodist Church with Revs. Alfred Berryhill and Sammy Chupco officiating. Burial followed the service at the Okmulgee Indian Baptist Cemetery under the direction of the Shurden-Jackson Funeral Home in Okmulgee.

Pallbearers were Micheal Jimboy, Isaiah Jimboy, Daniel Littlebear, Curtis Cargill, Byron Proctor, Chuck LaSarge, Anthony LaSarge, Josiah LaSarge and Jeremiah LaSarge.

Honorary pallbearers were Butch LaSarge, Charley LaSarge, Ronnie LaSarge, Allen LaSarge, Robert Brown, Sam Johnson and Raymond Bevenue.

SUZANNA MOSES

SEMINOLE — Suzanna Kay Moses, 54, of Seminole, passed away Sept. 7, 2012 in Seminole, Okla.

Born May 8, 1958 in Talihina, Okla., to the late Sam and Josephine (McGirt) Moses.

Suzanna was raised near Limestone with her parents, and siblings (now deceased). Growing up, she attended schools at Limestone and New Lima. She enjoyed going to church and for many years she was raised on the grounds of Hilltop Indian Presbyterian Church.

Later in years she was ordained as an elder and took that role seriously. She worked as a CHR with Seminole Nation and was member of the Tallahassee Band where she served as Council Representative. She also served her country 13 years with the U.S. National Guard.

Suzanna had great love and concern for her grandson, Taylor. Her last words expressed her hope that he would finish school and be cared for throughout his school days.

Preceding Suzanna in death were her parents; brothers, Harland and Harold Moses and sisters, Rosetta and Sandra Moses.

Survivors include daughter Rosanna Moses and husband Charles Yargee; grandson Taylor Moses; a special friend, Janet Hill; three nieces; one nephew and a host of other relatives and friends.

Wake services were held Sept. 9 at Stout-Phillips Funeral Home with Revs. Houston Tiger and Edward Jimboy officiating.

Pallbearers were Tony Yargee, Paul Stewart, Taylor Moses, Emmanuel Moses, Rexton Hailey.

Funeral services were held Sept. 10 at Stout-Phillips Funeral Home. Burial followed at Moses Family Cemetery.

THANK YOU

OKMULGEE — On behalf of Sissy Street Family and Grave Creek Church, we would like to thank the people who helped cook and serve dinner during our time of need: Mona "KoKo" Lowe, Rosanna Bear and the members of the First Baptist Church in Hitchita, Okla.

Thank you for all your prayers and those we may not know but were there to support the family and church. Mvto.

THANK YOU

BRISTOW — The Family of James Fletcher Waggoner would like to express our gratitude for all the love and support that was extended to us during our time of need. We are so grateful for the time that we had with James. He will be forever in our hearts.

We would like to extend a special thank you to:

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger and to Second Chief Roger Barnett, Rev. Don Tiger, Pastor Marcus Briggs-Cloud, Hutchins-Maples Funeral Home, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Roads Department, MCN Social Services, the community center in Bristow, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Gift Shop for the beautiful beaded bow tie and flute music, and to all the relatives and friends for their prayers and condolences.

Thank you to the cooks at the community center and those who offered food as well as their time, flowers, and gifts. The family is thankful for the many prayers and condolences.

- Jennie Katoos Waggoner

THANK YOU

WEWOKA — We, the family of the late Robert Tom Wood, cannot say thank you enough to all those who came and gave us encouragement during the time of my husband's illness.

We would like to thank everyone for the help with the food, flowers, cards, during the time of our lost and during the time of his illness. We would like to recognize those who helped us through it all:

Rev. Jimsey Harjo & members of Rock Spring, Rev. George Harjochee & Family, Rev. Houston Tiger & members of Sand Creek Eufuala, Rev. Willie Guient & members of middle Creek Baptist, Gerald Prater, Winn Harjo, Charles Burgess & Mary Hulbutta, Sherman & Winey West, Walter & Joann Coker, Leo & Diane Moppin, Milred Martin & Wanda Bruner, Carol Harrison, Vicki Wilson, Shirley Harrison, Martha Carpitcher Walker, Jason Tiger, Bennie Tiger, Marvin Osborne, Josh Punkta, Dean Welch, Holdenville Health Care, Faith Hospice nurses, Creek Nation Road Crew, Seminole Nation Road Crew, Seminole Nation Housing Authority, Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town, Creek Nation Tribal Office, Apollo Gonzales & Family, Mary McCormick, Beverly Snow, Edna Easterwood, Amelia Harjo, Rev. Frank Moppin & Family, Rev. Arthur Carpitcher & Family, Glen Gibbs, Allen Foster, OLG Propane, Dynamic Lawns, Chickasaw Medical Center.

If we left your name off, please forgive us. Your rewards will be noted in Heaven where it really counts. Once again, God bless you and thank you.

- Family of Robert T. Wood

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Community Calendar October 2012

Okmulgee Elderly Nutrition monthly gospel singing Oct. 18

OKMULGEE — The Okmulgee Elderly Nutrition Center will host a Creek Singing Oct. 18 from 7-9 p.m., at the nutrition center building in Okmulgee.

The nutrition center hosts singings every third Thursday of the month.

For more information contact T. Jackson at 918-752-0952.

MCN Office of Child Care to host fall festival Oct. 19

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Office of Child Care will host a fall festival Oct. 19 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the open field area on the MCN capitol complex south of the mound building.

For more information contact the Office of Child Care at 918-732-7680 or toll free at 1-800-205-3705.

Buckeye Creek Baptist volleyball tournament Nov. 3

OKEMAH — The Buckeye Creek Baptist Church will host a co-ed volleyball tournament at Mekusukey Mission Gym Nov. 3.

For more information call Tamara Berryhill at 918-623-8042 or Lucille Harjo at 580-641-2675.

MCN Tourism and Recreation to host Council Oak Oct. 20

TULSA — The MCN Tourism and Recreation Department will host the 2012 Council Oak Ceremony Oct. 20., beginning at 2 p.m., at Council Oak Park 1750 South Cheyenne Ave., in Tulsa.

There will be arts and crafts vendors, a stickball match at 3:30 p.m. and dinner at 5 p.m. with a stompdance afterwards.

Everyone is welcome to attend activities at the Riverwalk Crossing in Jenks.

For more information, contact MCN Tourism and Recreation at 918-732-7992.

Broken Arrow Indian United Methodist to host Indian taco sale Oct. 20

BROKEN ARROW — The Broken Arrow Indian Methodist Church will host an Indian taco sale Oct. 20 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Dinners are $7 and include a taco, homemade desert and a drink.

The church is located at 20854 E. 141st St. in Broken Arrow.

Little Creek #2 to host Harvest Festival

HOLDENVILLE — Little Creek #2 will host their annual Harvest Festival Oct. 26 from 6:30-10:30 p.m., at the church located off Old Highway 270 (west of the prison) in Holdenville.

The event will feature a carnival, games, a cake walk, chili cook-off, pumpkin carving contest and hayrides. All events are free. A concession will be available.

For more information, contact Abbie Larney at 405-379-8187 or Hope Lena at 918-312-3121.

Trenton Indian Baptist gospel singing and food sale Oct. 27

HANNA — The Trenton Indian Baptist Church will host a gospel singing and food sale Oct. 27.

The food sale begins at 12 p.m. and the gospel singing begins at 1 p.m.

For more information call Gracine Hicks at 918-623-7117 or Daria Hicks at 918-716-0735.

MCN Division of Health to host Pink Party Oct. 31

OKMULGEE — The MCN Division of Health will host the 10th annual Pink Party for breast cancer awareness Oct. 31 at Oklahoma State University of Okmulgee in Covelle Hall.

Registration begins at 12 p.m. and the event is from 1-4 p.m.

For more information call 918-591-5700.

Buckeye Creek to host volleyball tournament Nov. 3

OKEMAH — Buckeye Creek Baptist Church will host a co-ed volleyball tournament Nov. 3 at Mekusukey Mission Gym.

For more information call Tamara Berryhill 918-623-8042 or Lucille Harjo 580-641-2675.

MCN Reintegration Program to host 4th annual Holiday Toy Drive

HENRYETTA — The MCN Reintegration Program (RIP) is having its 4th annual Holiday Toy Drive to ensure that children with incarcerated family members have gifts for the holidays.

For more information including drop off sites call 918-652-2676.

School Clothing applications available through Oct. 26

Media Release
MCN Social Services

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation School Clothing Program 2012/2013, is now accepting applications until Oct. 26, 2012 at 5 p.m.

This program is open to all Muscogee (Creek) citizen students no matter where they live in the United States.

Call 918-549-2473 or toll free at 1-800-482-1979 for an application to be mailed or faxed.

All applications must be returned or mailed to: School Clothing Program, P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK. 74447.

Please do not fax or e-mail the applications.

For more information, contact the School Clothing Program at 918-549-2473 or toll free at 1-800-482-1979, ext. 2473.

Tribal Driveways Program accepting applications

Media Release
MCN Tribal Driveways Program

OKMULGEE — The Tribal Driveways Program is accepting applications for repair of accessible driveways for property owners who reside within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation boundaries. Applicant must be enrolled with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation tribe.

Hours of operation are 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Friday. We are located on the Creek Nation Capitol Complex area between the Indian Health Service building and the old Head Start building in Okmulgee, Okla.

The Tribal Driveways Program addresses the needs of our Muscogee (Creek) Nation elders and tribal citizens that require services due to the poor condition of their private drives.

ELIGIBILITY: (Need copies)

1. Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizenship card
2. Warranty Deed (in Creek owner's name)
3. Oklahoma Driver's License or ID
4. Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizen will be limited to no more than one (1) service every four (4) years

Organization applications are also available for Muscogee (Creek) Nation ceremonial grounds, tribal towns, community centers, churches and when needed, family cemeteries that are within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation boundaries.

For more information or to request an application call 918-732-7651 or 1-800-482-1979.

EMOPONAYV

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — Hey Estacate, Columbus Day was on the eighth of this month. Did you celebrate anything? Maybe take the day off, unless you worked for the MCN? Kids all over the country are singing, "… Columbus sailed the ocean blue, in fourteen hundred ninety-two…" Yeah, yeah. Thanks for 'discovering' us, Chris.

Let's see now, ol' Christopher talked the queen into hocking her jewels to finance a voyage to somewhere else, got lost, called us 'Indians,' turned the natives into slaves and made an ATM out of our continent. About right?

Got news for ya,' Chris. Some say, the Chinese, the Vikings and the Irish had already dropped by before you. If the Vikings had stuck around, we would have been known as "Skraelings." Wouldn't that be fun? Cleveland Skraelings? Skraeling giver? Bureau of Skraeling Affairs? Skraeling tacos? I'm 1/32 Skraeling?

You ever wonder what could have developed here if those Europeans had not made their journeys? There were already great civilizations, cultures and cities here.

I tend to remember the last scenes from the movie "Apocalypto", where Mayan enemies chase the hero onto the beach and he is halted in his tracks. Just when you think things couldn't get any worse, he looks up and sees Spanish ships with soldiers and priests heading for shore. Geez.

The United Nations Indigenous committee is working to reject the "Policy of Discovery Doctrine." Kinda late for that isn't it?

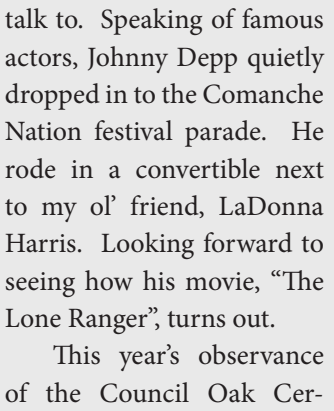
Famous actor Chaske Spencer was here. The "Twilight" movie werewolf guy spoke at our Mvskoke Film Festival. Great guy, easy to talk to. Speaking of famous actors, Johnny Depp quietly dropped in to the Comanche Nation festival parade. He rode in a convertible next to my ol' friend, LaDonna Harris. Looking forward to seeing how his movie, "The Lone Ranger", turns out.

This year's observance of the Council Oak Ceremony is coming up Oct. 20. The ceremony takes place at 2 p.m., at 1750 S. Cheyenne Ave., in Tulsa.

After that there will be stickball, dinner and a stompdance at the Riverwalk Crossing in Jenks, starting at 3:30 p.m. There'll be room for vendors.

Oh yeah, Native-Made Art Festival Oct. 27, in Jenks. Get ahold of the Tourism and Rec folks for more information on that one.

Finally, some wisdom from Will Rogers: Being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable.



Nonpoint Source Pollution: Hitchin' a Ride Through the Watershed

Yvette Wiley
MCN Environmental Services

OKMULGEE — Nonpoint Source Pollution (NPS), also called 'runoff' pollution. Is it something we can touch, taste, or smell? Or maybe, it's more like a hanhkv that's invisible and just waiting for the right moment to pop out. It can be all of those things. Well, except for the hanhkv. It's definitely not a Hanhkv, but NPS has the potential to be a real spook.

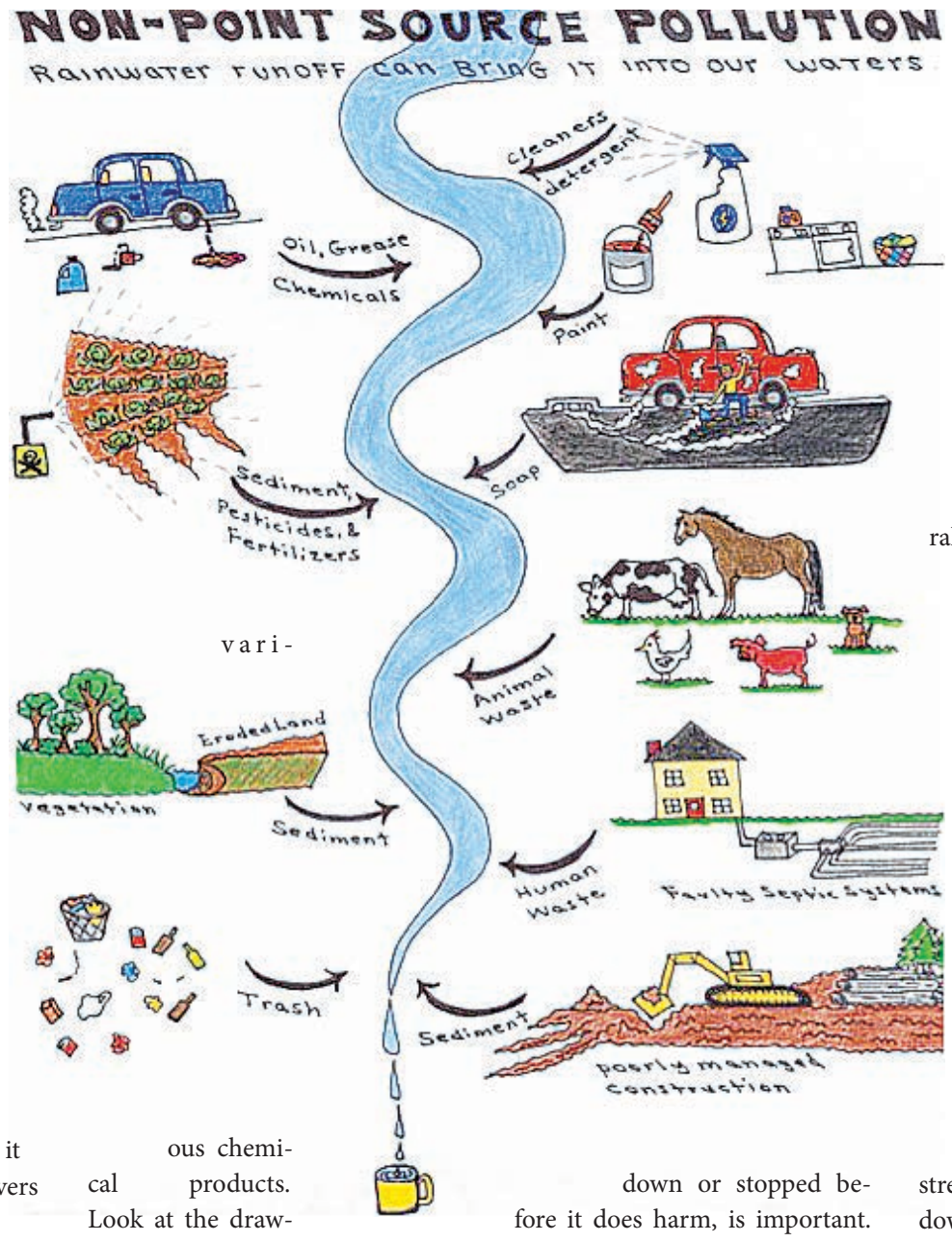
NPS is a way to describe pollutants that begin from many points and places. NPS is a traveler. It's the vagabond pollutant that's always on the go. It hitches a ride on anything that will carry it and goes with the flow, up, down, over and out.

It can be carried in different ways, like through the air where it rides on tiny little particles. Eventually, these particles fall back to Ekvnv (Earth) and deposit on the land or in a water source. Scientists and professionals call this phenomenon atmospheric deposition. Besides traveling on particles in the air, NPS can be carried in snow or raindrops where it travels downhill to waterbodies.

For this article, we'll concentrate on NPS that travels in the snow and rain, because it then navigates our streams, rivers and lakes.

Nasty, oozing, toxic chemicals are what most people envision when they hear the word pollution. Chemicals can be pollutants, but they aren't always considered pollutants when properly managed. A pollutant can be many things. If there's too much of something or if it's in the wrong place, it is sometimes designated as a pollutant.

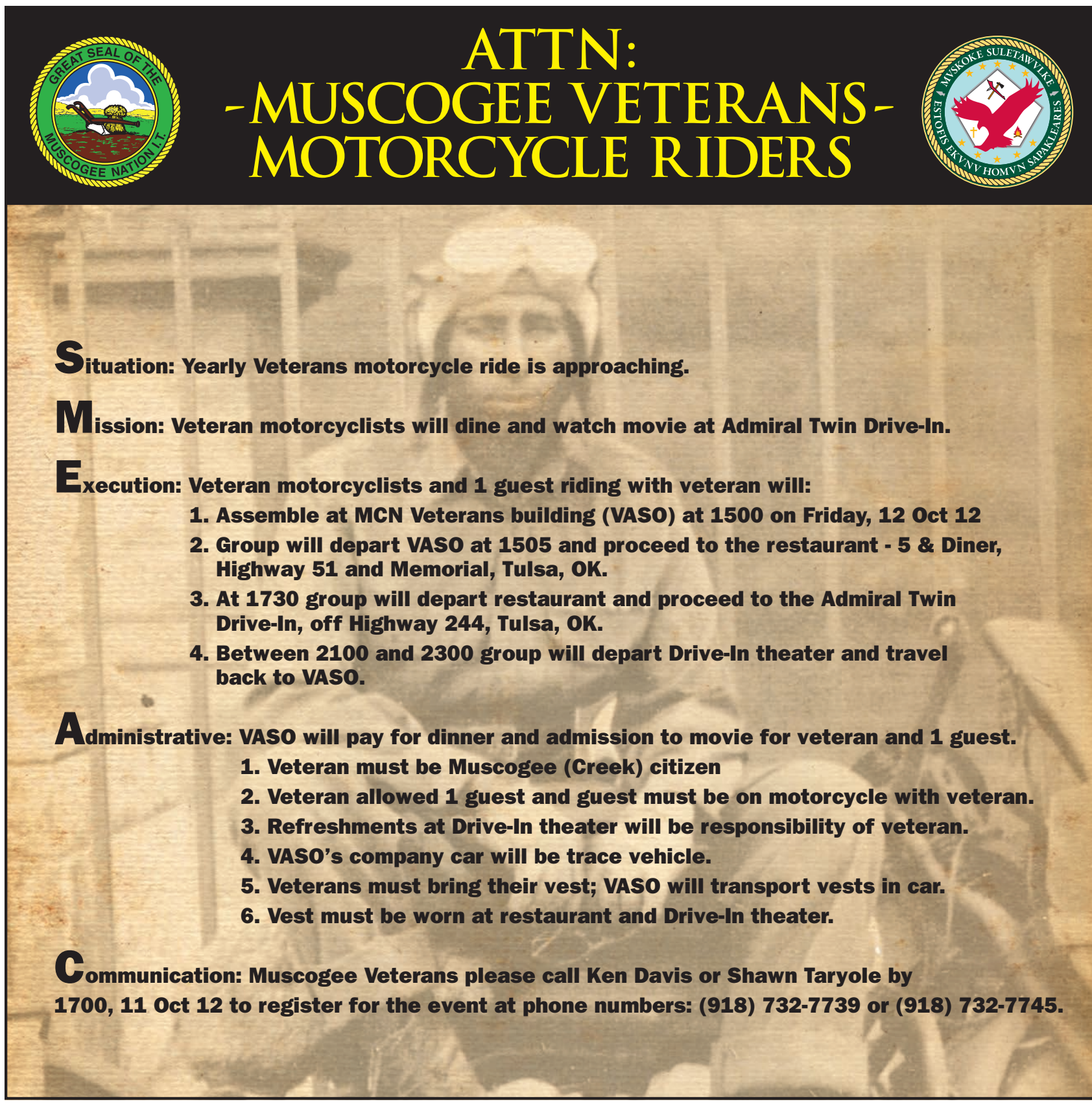
The drawing in Figure 1 shows examples of types of NPS pollutants like sediment, animal and human wastes, oil and grease, and various chemical products. Look at the drawing to see there are many different kinds of NPS pollutants that start from many different places. NPS spreads out over a surface rather than from one point.



For example, the sand and salt that is spread on the roads after a snowfall keep our cars from sliding into one another. Once the snow melts, the sand and salt becomes a NPS pollutant. NPS is that vagabond cousin, remember? It's a traveler, so knowing the route it will take, so it can be slowed down or stopped before it does harm, is important. It might get washed down the side of a street; down a storm drain where pipes carry it to our streams. If there's no storm drain or curb, it might get washed to the side of a road where, with enough rain, it gets washed downhill until it finds a waterbody. If NPS finds a flowing waterbody, like a stream, then it flows down the channel (no boat necessary) until that little stream flows into a bigger stream. And on it travels, to bigger rivers, and eventually on to the ocean.

Surfaces can affect the rate of speed that NPS travels. The water that NPS has attached itself to flows much faster over surfaces like parking lots, rooftops, and roads, because those surfaces (impervious surfaces) prevent water from filtering into the ground. Additionally, they are smoother than an unpaved surface, and things flow faster over smoother surfaces. Essentially, in a city with lots of impervious surfaces NPS will travel more like a speedboat racer. In rural areas with more woods than rooftops, NPS travels slower, like a kayaker. It also has a chance to seep into the soil until the ground is saturated, before 'running off' down the hill to the stream.

Weather conditions can affect whether NPS stays on the go, or settles on the streambed. For instance, in drought conditions the water velocity in the stream channel slows. In the slower moving water there isn't enough kinetic energy to carry NPS downstream. The only place it can go is down through the water column to settle on the streambed. It will stay there until something comes along to stir up the streambed (fish, feet of noodlers, or a heavy rain that increases the velocity of the stream) then NPS is, once again, on the move.


ATTN:
-MUSCOGEE VETERANS-
MOTORCYCLE RIDERS
GREAT SEAL OF THE MUSCOGEE NATION I.T.
MVSKOKE SULETAWVLKE ESTOFES EKVNV HOMVN SAPAKLEARES
Situation: Yearly Veterans motorcycle ride is approaching.
Mission: Veteran motorcyclists will dine and watch movie at Admiral Twin Drive-In.
Execution: Veteran motorcyclists and 1 guest riding with veteran will:
1. Assemble at MCN Veterans building (VASO) at 1500 on Friday, 12 Oct 12
2. Group will depart VASO at 1505 and proceed to the restaurant - 5 & Diner, Highway 51 and Memorial, Tulsa, OK.
3. At 1730 group will depart restaurant and proceed to the Admiral Twin Drive-In, off Highway 244, Tulsa, OK.
4. Between 2100 and 2300 group will depart Drive-In theater and travel back to VASO.
Administrative: VASO will pay for dinner and admission to movie for veteran and 1 guest.
1. Veteran must be Muscogee (Creek) citizen
2. Veteran allowed 1 guest and guest must be on motorcycle with veteran.
3. Refreshments at Drive-In theater will be responsibility of veteran.
4. VASO's company car will be trace vehicle.
5. Veterans must bring their vest; VASO will transport vests in car.
6. Vest must be worn at restaurant and Drive-In theater.
Communication: Muscogee Veterans please call Ken Davis or Shawn Taryole by 1700, 11 Oct 12 to register for the event at phone numbers: (918) 732-7739 or (918) 732-7745.

HALLOWEEN
FALL FEST
OCTOBER 28TH
FIGHT LIKE A GIRL
Proud to support the fight against breast cancer
$10 Match Play
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Hot Seat Drawings
5 - $100 Free Play Hot Seat Drawings every 1/2 hour from 2:00PM - 7:30PM.
Halloween Costume Contest
8:00PM
1st - $1,000
2nd - $750 3rd - $500
4th - $250 5th - $100
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Ailing Native American activist seeks financial help

Native American activists seeks donations to save home from foreclosure

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

SAN DIEGO — Native American activist Lehman Brightman, founder of the United Native Americans (UNA) and his son, Quanah Parker Brightman, are facing foreclosure on their family home and seeking financial help. Lehman is currently in the care of rehabilitation center in California after suffering a serious stroke.

"He is not able to walk," said Quanah.

According to Quanah, his father will not be allowed to leave the rehabilitation center until the financial debt on their home is settled.

"He should be allowed to live his final days among his family at his home," Quanah said.

A website has been set up to accept donations to help the family save their home which is scheduled to be auctioned off Nov. 9 if the family is unable to make their payments.

"We've still got a long way to go," Quanah said.

Photo provided/Lehman Brightman

Native American activist Lehman Brightman (center) with his son Quanah Parker Brightman (right).

The UNA was founded by Lehman in the '60s and was based out of the San Francisco Bay Area.

"We have always been about peace. We believe in activism through pro-indigenous education," Quanah said.

Lehman, who is both Muscogee (Creek) and Sioux, was born in Eufaula and had many athletic accomplishments while attending Oklahoma State University before becoming politically active.

"My father is a very strong willed man; he has been very humble about his accomplishments," Quanah said.

Quanah says he is working hard to care for Lehman while running the UNA and seeking help for the family's home.

"The love I have for my father is carried out through actions, not just words. As indigenous people we are taught at a very early age to respect our elders and that's what I've chosen to do," Quanah said.

Quanah and his father received positive news when their bank gave them an extension to settle their back mortgage payments.

However, according to Quanah, his family is still far from their goal to keep their home from auction next month.

"We still have a long way to go," he said.

To make a donation to the Brightmans visit: http://www.gofundme.com/ForMrBrightman

Muscogee (Creek) family man becomes licensed attorney

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

TULSA — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Donald Slaughter recently passed the Oklahoma Bar Examination as part of the May 2012 Tulsa University (TU) graduating class, which collectively scored the highest on the exam in the state of Oklahoma.

Slaughter was married with one child while completing law school and his second child was born the week before he took the bar examination.

"I didn't get to study the entire final week before the test," he said.

This was one of many trials he overcame on his way to becoming a licensed attorney. Earlier in his education, Slaughter graduated from the former Hill Haven Christian Academy only to find out after graduating that the school was not accredited.

"I'd never taken an SAT or ACT," he said.

After graduating from Hill Haven, Slaughter entered into the workforce for a short period until his mother convinced him to continue his education.

Slaughter was able to gain college admission despite his unaccredited diploma with good scores on several college placement tests, obtaining his associate's degree at Tulsa Community College and his bachelor's in political science at Oklahoma State University.

He spoke very highly of his education at TU.

"It was a really enjoyable experience," Slaughter said.

While in school, Slaughter interned at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court under Administrator of Special Projects Chris Azbell.

Azbell commented on Slaughter's tenacity.

"He got married and had a kid early in life and it really shows persistence and dedication that he made it through law school while having a family," Azbell said.

Slaughter is currently providing assistance on court cases for a friend who mentored him in law school and may be hired as in house legal counsel for his brother who is currently forming a new business.

"Everything is still in the development stages though," Slaughter said.

In the future, Slaughter hopes to pursue a career in politics.

"I still need to build my career before I think about that," he said.

Presently, however, Slaughter is still adjusting to postgraduate life.

"I'm trying to get used to the idea of being out of college and being an attorney, it is still surreal to me," he said.

Photo provided/Donald Slaughter

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Donald Slaughter recently passed the Oklahoma Bar Examination as part of the May 2012 Tulsa University graduating class.

WHITE BUFFALO PLAYERS CLUB
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IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT FILED 2012 SEP 7 AM 10 MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION DONNA BEAVER COURT CLERK

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
J.B., DOB: 04-22-06)
)
Alleged Deprived Children.)

Case No.: JV 2010-08

NOTICE OF HEARING TO:

Michael Galloway, Natural Father of J.B.

YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that a Petition to Terminate Parental Rights has been filed against you in the above-styled and numbered cause and will be heard in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the **2ND day of November** at **9:30 A.M.**

YOU ARE HEREBY INFORMED that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the child remains a ward of the Court and custody be continued in the Children and Family Services Administration for continued foster placement of possible pre-adoptive placement. **YOU ARE FUTHER INFORMED** that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.

JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT FILED 2012 SEP 5 PM MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION DONNA BEAVER COURT CLERK

IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF:)
)
BRANDON BOUDREAUX,)
)
Petitioner,)
) Case No. DV-2012-70
vs.)
)
SANDRA BOUDREAUX,)
)
Respondent.)

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: **Sandra Boudreaux**

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for divorce in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. DV-2010-70, styled In re the Marriage of Brandon Boudreaux, Petitioner and Sandra Boudreaux, Respondent, *Petition for Dissolution of Marriage*. The action alleges that the Petitioner is entitled to a decree of dissolution of marriage from you based on the grounds of incompatibility.

You are notified that you must appear at the hearing on the 2nd day of November, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. Failure to attend will result in the allegations contained in the *Petition* being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of Petitioner.

Given under my hand and seal this 5th day of Sept, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
By: Debie King
(Deputy)

(SEAL)

BE THE VOICE

Presented by: Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program

OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program is hosting domestic violence awareness events throughout the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The events will feature domestic violence survivor panels, and will discuss ways that every community member can BE THE VOICE in an effort to bring about awareness and to ensure the safety of our women, children and our communities.

October 23, 2012 **7:00 p.m.**

Eufaula Indian Community
800 Birkes Road. Eufaula, OK

There will be door prizes and a limited number of t-shirts! Donations to the local domestic violence shelter are welcome and appreciated but not required. For more information contact Tania Bardin at (918) 732-7869.

This project was supported by Grants No. 2010-WR-AX0004 and 2011-TW-AX-0019 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this announcement are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

- Research indicates that American Indian women experience domestic violence at a higher rate than any other ethnic group.
- During a physical assault, American Indian/Alaska Native women were more likely to be injured than women of all other groups and more of these injuries needed medical care.

What is domestic violence?
Domestic Violence is a pattern of behavior used to assert and maintain power and control over another person through fear and intimidation, often including the threat or use of violence. Domestic violence can include:

Emotional/Verbal Abuse	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse
Name calling	Hitting/pushing/kicking	Forced intercourse/rape
Threats	Choking	Unwanted sexual activity
	Intimidation	*Any act that causes physical harm

The Family Violence Prevention Program provides a number of supportive services to victims of domestic and sexual violence including: court/legal advocacy, assistance in filing protective orders or in locating emergency shelter, safety planning, referrals and other services depending on each individual's needs.

If you are in an abusive relationship, please contact Family Violence Prevention at 918-732-7869 to speak with an Advocate.

Be the Voice. Speak out against domestic violence...Our Nation depends on it!

Inside the MNN:

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See Native - Page 7

People - Mvskoke Hall of Fame

People - Starr releases print version of "Super Indian"

Muscogee Nation News

Official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and a production of Mvskoke Media

Inter-Tribal Council passes resolution supporting Hickory Ground

Resolution 12-08 aims to preserve historic site near Wetumka, Ala.

Rebecca Landsberry
MNN Editor

TULSA — The Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes adopted four resolutions during the general session Oct. 12 at the River Spirit Event Center in Tulsa, Okla.

Chickasaw Nation Gov. Bill Anoatubby, Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Bill Baker, Choctaw Nation Chief Greg Pyle, Seminole Nation Asst. Chief Ella Colman and Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Principal Chief George Tiger who serves as president of the Council, presented progress reports for their respective tribes.

Tiger reported on the MCN's acquisition of Riverwalk Crossing in Jenks, Okla., and the Okmulgee Country Club earlier this year as well as housing, health and the chartered communities within the nation.

"Success is not based on invidualisms, success is based on being able to collaborate and work together . . . the success of tribes that you see in front of you have enjoyed is because of the fact that we work together, not against one another," Tiger said.

Committee meetings were held Oct. 11 for participants to discuss tribal programing development in the areas of social services, language, housing, governance, economic development, communication, education, health, elders/aging, child welfare, realty and historic/cultural preservation during break out sessions at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Tulsa.

The sessions produced four resolutions adopted by the council by the general session. Three of these resolutions focused on the protection of tribal lands.

MNN/Rebecca Landsberry

Representative of Oce Vpofa (Hickory Ground) Sam Deere (at podium) spoke at the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting Oct. 12 regarding the development of the original Hickory Ground for the expansion of Wind Creek Casino in Atmore, Ala.

Resolution 12-08 was adopted in opposition of the Poarch Creek Band of Indians' expansion of Wind Creek Casino.

Representative from Oce Vpofa (Hickory Ground) Sam Deere spoke on behalf of ceremonial ground leader George Thompson regarding the development of the original Hickory Ground for the expansion of Wind Creek Casino in Atmore, Ala., by the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

"During the excavation, some 57 bodies or human remains were dug up there, including seven chiefs within the ceremonial grounds themselves," Deere said.

According to Deere, the ceremonial grounds are a fundamental part of the tribe because they encompass the living culture and the values handed down from generation to generation. MCN ceremonial ground leaders are elected to their positions for life.

See Inter-Tribal - 7

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Nov. 1, 2012
Vol. 42, Issue 21
"Ehole"
Frost Month

Smithsonian's 'Mvskoke Etvlwv' exhibit set for Nov. 15-17

Media Release
Mvskoke Media

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation will participate in the Mvskoke Etvlwv - Muscogee people living exhibit as part of the Smithsonian's Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., Nov. 15-17.

In recognition of Native American Heritage Month, citizens, artists, elders and representatives will gather to recognize MCN culture, sovereignty and veterans.

The exhibit will feature panels with members of the Mvskoke Nation Honor Guard, event organizers Justin Giles and John Beaver from the Ocmulgee to Okmulgee Bike Tour as well as cultural presentations, arts and craft demonstrations and more.

Tribe remembers Council Oak at annual fall ceremony

Gerald Wofford
MNN Feature Writer

TULSA — Dignitaries, tribal royalty and members of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation met at the sacred Council Oak Park located at 1750 S. Cheyenne Ave., near downtown Tulsa Oct. 20. The annual event commemorates the historic site where the Locvpokv (pronounced low-kuh-bo-juh) people of the MCN gathered when they arrived in Indian Territory in 1836 after forced removal by the U.S. government.

"This will always be a special place for all of us to gather and remember this day," said Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger. "We have other events throughout the year that have special meaning to us like the Creek Nation Festival but this is a time when members of the ceremonial ground, community leaders and others from the tribe just come together to remember our history, our survival, in such a special place."

MNN/Gerald Wofford

Leaders of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation ceremonial grounds listen to speakers at the annual Council Oak ceremony in Tulsa Oct. 20.

See Oak - 3

Poarch Band of Creek Indians halting casino expansion

Media Release
MCN Public Relations

OKMULGEE — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger, Poarch Band of Creek Indians Chairman Buford L. Rolin and tribal representatives met Oct. 8 to discuss the adversity between the two nations regarding the ongoing construction and expansion of the Wind Creek Casino located in Atmore, Ala.

Poarch Band Attorney General Venus McGhee sent an email to Tiger's legal counsel Yonne Tiger stating that construction was halted Oct. 15 at 5 p.m., and included the removal of construction personnel, park equipment and measures to ensure the safety of the site.

The Poarch Band decided to halt construction in a measure of good faith after Chief Tiger made a request.

As ongoing discussions between the MCN and the Poarch Band continue, construction will not proceed until further notice.

According to Tiger, another meeting will be scheduled in the coming weeks to discuss a resolution to this matter.

MvskokeMedia

Muscogee Nation News Staff

Manager
Christina Good Voice

Editor
Rebecca Landsberry

Editorial Assistant
Gary Fife

Reporter
Sterling Cosper

Sports Writer
Darren DeLaune

Feature Writer
Gerald Wofford

Circulation
Wilma Lewis

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Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Please contact our office for deadline of submissions to be considered for inclusion. The **Muscogee Nation News** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate The **Muscogee Nation News** in any regard.

The **Muscogee Nation News** is mailed from Stigler, Okla., to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

To submit a change of address or a letter to the editor, call (918) 732-7720 or send e-mail to: wlewis@mcn-nsn.gov

NAJA
Members of the Native American Journalists Association

Mvskoke Hall of Fame honors inaugural inductees

Gala fundraiser aims to supplement tribal higher education funding

Rebecca Landsberry
MNN Editor

TULSA — The first four MVSKOKE Hall of Fame inductees were recognized for their contribution to Muscogee (Creek) Nation at a gala held in their honor Oct. 11 at the River Spirit Event Center in Tulsa.

The MVSKOKE Hall of Fame takes the place of the tribe's Living Legends ceremony that was held each June at the MCN Festival. Living Legends honorees were grandfathered into the MVSKOKE Hall of Fame.

Principal Chief George Tiger said the tribe aimed to recognize these citizens for their positive influence on the MCN.

"I felt like a MVSKOKE Hall of Fame was long overdue, especially to recognize people that have contributed to the success of this nation, whether it was on the community or national level," Tiger said.

MVSKOKE Hall of Fame induction requires the individual to have made outstanding contributions to the quality of life and development of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Citizens Simon Harry, Elsie Martin, Joy Harjo and the late Allie Reynolds were the 2012 inductees.

Harry, a Euchee tribal elder, has been one of the driving forces of keeping the Euchee tradition, language and culture alive. He has been the leader of the Duck Creek Ceremonial Ground for 16 years.

Harry commented on his role at the ground after receiving the award.

"I love it," Harry said.

Martin committed more than 20 years of her life as the primary caretaker for Ray Murphy Jr., who was injured in a wrestling accident at Oklahoma State in 1969, which left him a quadriplegic.

Martin's deep faith and commitment to Murphy's well being especially in the early years of his accident gave him comfort. Murphy received his college degree with Martin accompanying him across the stage to receive his diploma. Murphy lived to be 62 and experts believe he had a long life because of Martin.

In 2010, the AARP honored Martin as one of its "Oklahoma Indian Elders." AARP recognizes those who have made outstanding impressions on their families, their tribes and their communities. She is originally from Wetumka, Okla., and is a member of the Turtle Clan. She is of the Thlopthlocco Tribal Town and full-blood Muscogee (Creek).

Today Elsie lives in Tucson, Ariz., and is approaching 93 years of age. Her weakened health did not allow her to make the trip to accept the award.

Harjo is a prominent poet, musician and author and has had 15 works of poetry published. Her accomplishments cover many genres in the art field, and she's a major proponent for Indian and Muscogee (Creek) issues as a proud citizen.

Harjo has produced five well-received albums, written two children's books, a memoir and co-wrote a screenplay.

Throughout her life, Harjo has received more than 30 awards and honors for her work including the 2011"Muscogee Women's Leadership Artist of the Year Award" and in 2005, the National Museum of the American Indian named her "Writer of the Year."

In 1990, she won the "American Indian Distinguished Achievement in the Arts Award." She was recognized as one of the "Outstanding Young Women in America" and received the "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the Native Writers Circle of the Americas.

Outside her writing talents and poetry, Harjo has a passion for music. She often plays her saxophone during poetry readings when words sometime can't describe what melodies can. Harjo also plays with her band and has garnered honors such as "Best Female Artist of the Year" by the Native American Music Association (MAMMY).

Tiger read an acceptance letter from Harjo who was performing in North Dakota during the time of the ceremony.

"Mvto to the keepers of our traditional knowledge for what roots us as Muscogee people . . . May this honor inspire others to pursue arts as a passion in this world. We need artists of all sorts," Harjo said.

Reynolds, who passed in 1994 at the age of 77, was a Muscogee (Creek) citizen and a major league baseball pitcher. He attended Capitol Hill High School and then went on to attend Oklahoma A&M where he played several sports.

He broke into the major leagues of the age of 25 and played for the Cleveland Indians (1942-1946) and the New York Yankees (1947-1954). He played with Joe DiMaggio and in 1951 he become the first American League pitcher to have two no-hitters in one season. He was a six-time MLB All-Star, a six-time World Series champion and was inducted into the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame in 1986.

In 1951 he won the Hickok Belt as top professional athlete of the year. A plaque hangs in Monument Park of Yankee Stadium denoting Reynolds as "one of the Yankees' greatest right-handed pitchers."

In 1993, he received the Jim Thorpe Lifetime Achievement Award. Oklahoma State University's baseball stadium is named in honor of Reynolds.

Reynolds was one of the tribe's first gaming commissioners, serving as a board member during the early days of Indian gaming. At the time of his death, Reynolds was president of the National Hall of Fame for Famous American Indians in Anadarko, Okla.

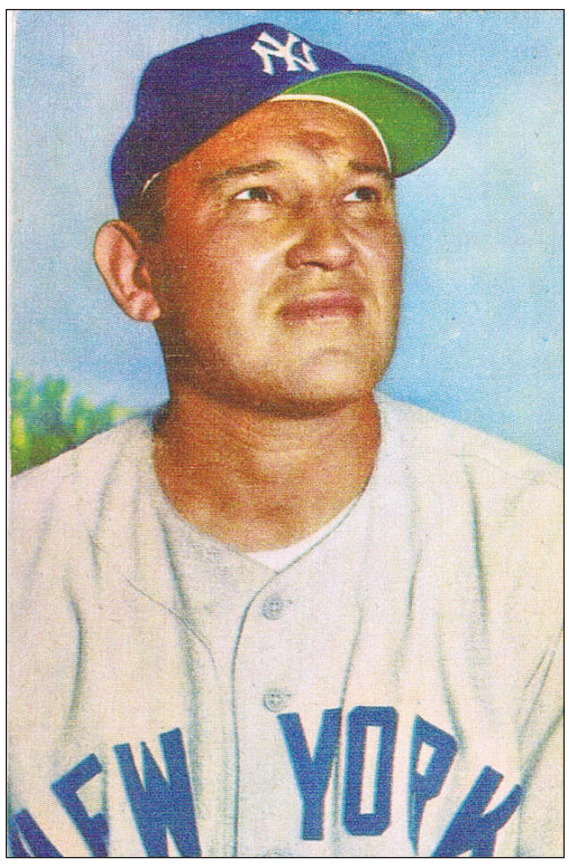
Reynolds' grandson, Ryan Sullivan, was in attendance to accept the award on behalf of the family.

Proceeds of the event including those generated from the silent auction will benefit the Creek Nation Foundation, Inc. and the 2013 MCN Festival. The Creek Nation Foundation was established in 1974 to promote the health, education and welfare of MCN citizens.

Tiger said the foundation aims to fund scholarships for unemployed or underemployed students through private donations. These scholarships will supplement the funding already in place through the tribe's higher education programs.

"Our objective is to raise $10,000,000 over the next four years," Tiger said. "We want to support our citizens who are seeking a professional technical career and the scholarship fund will help students enter and participate in graduate study and we want our tribal members to earn degrees in healthcare, information technology, accounting, engineering and law."

Pictured below (top left) are Joy Harjo, (top right) Simon Harry, (bottom left) Allie Reynolds and Elsie Martin.



Letter to the Editor

Citizen thanks tribe for assistance during fire

BRISTOW — I want to say "thank you" to all those who helped me during the fire. I want to give a special thank you to firefighters, volunteers and to all my neighbors. Also, a special thank you to Principal Chief George Tiger and Roger Barnett and the BIA firefighters who helped save my home.

I also want to say thank you to Sapulpa Indian Community for taking me in and helping me. Thank you to Darri Johnson and my family who thought for me when my mind was gone.

Also, thank you to MCN Social Services and Lighthorse. May God bless each and every one of you.

- Reba McDermott

Oak

Continued from Page 1

MCN Second Chief Roger Barnett announced Oct. 20 as 'Council Oak Day' per a proclamation from city of Tulsa Mayor Dewey Bartlett.

The master of ceremonies for the event was Arnold Taylor of Apekv Ceremonial Ground. Raymond Meely and Ace Buckner, also of Apekv, helped light a special fire in remembrance of the Locvpokv carrying the ashes of their original fires to Okla., near this specific oak tree next to the Arkansas River.

In an interview with Mvskoke Radio co-host Gary Fife, Nuyaka Ceremonial Ground Mekko (leader) Eunice Hill mentioned how important it is to preserve the Council Oak Tree and what it means to the Mvskoke people.

Hill was a member of a crew that worked for the city of Tulsa in the 1980s and was instrumental in instructing city officials to preserve the tree when the administration was considering cutting it down.

"Well to me when they traveled on the Trail of Tears, they had a lot of good things, like fire, medicine, water; they brought it over here and took care of the people on the way, and when they got here, they spread those ashes under that oak tree - that was the place they chose. To me, I feel good about that . . .good things happen because of that tree," he said.

Jimmy Deere of Green Leaf Ceremonial Ground made a traditional call to mark the lighting of the fire. MCN Public Relations Manager Edwin Marshall and Sam Proctor of Tallahassee Ceremonial Ground spoke in the Mvskoke language and dismissed the crowd.

The MCN Tourism and Recreation Department coordinated the event, which also included a stickball game, traditional meal and stompdance for participants at the Tulsa Creek Indian Community Center after the ceremony.

MNN/Gerald Wofford

Above: (top) Master of Ceremonies Arnold Taylor of Apeka Ceremonial Ground shares history about the Council Oak ceremony. Miss Muscogee Nation Nancy Deere (left) and Miss Euchee Princess Janna Rolland were amongst attendees at the ceremony.

Below: Raymond Meely and Ace Buckner of Apeka ceremonial grounds prepare to light the ceremonial fire as the crowd watches. Attendees also participated in a social stickball game held after the ceremony at the Tulsa Creek Indian Community.

Learning our language, regaining culture: Weeks 5-6

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

WEEK 5: OKMULGEE — Oops, blew my chance to recite the alphabet in class. Again, forgot the 'v-uh.'

Must be some kind of mental block. While others in class used the wall chart to pronounce the letters, I decided that I would take the chance that I could remember them correctly without looking. Darn near got them all, except for the 'v.' Again.

We're working on improving our skills with the two-letter combinations. It sort of reminds me of learning to conjugate vowels. The prime letter with other vowel sounds: jah; gee; and so on. Our list has 13 combinations to study.

We're also working on using the phrase, 'tat' and how it relates to personal pronouns like "I, you, he, she, we.' Just scratching the surface on that one.

We're continuing to learn very short phrases. Here's a couple that I'm sure I will find useful: 'Nake—What' or 'Nake te?'—What is it?'

Our vocabulary study is beginning to broaden as we become familiar with the basic building blocks of the words. One word is 'cokv—paper.' That's one I've seen a lot in various publications and now I should be able to remember what it means. I hope so, since I work for a 'cokv.'

Daria Hicks has mentioned that our class is still taking its baby steps in the language, predicting that we would become more fluent in the language if we keep it up. That sounds good. She told of a group of kids at Mason school who are learning about the same material as us. I asked her if we were doing any better, and she laughed, saying, "A little better."

I've noticed that there are some followers of my little diary of this linguistic journey. Thanks for paying attention—mvto. There have been several requests for language materials. I hope this trend continues.

I've referred them to the language department and the MCN Facebook page has included an order form. I wonder if the language folks have noticed any change in the numbers of CDs and books they're beginning to sell.

If so, —acvfvckes—I'm happy.

WEEK 6: It was an abbreviated class this week. The tribal education department was having a social gathering that included the language staff, so time and meeting space was limited.

Just less than half the usual number of students attended, so it was a more face-to-face discussion between students and Daria Hicks. It was refreshing to exchange our beginning language skills with each other. We had our recitation of the alphabet. It is becoming much more comfortable. This time I didn't look at the chart, and I remembered the 'v—uh.'

'Humken, hokkelen, tuccenen; one, two, three.' That's the next challenge. Numbers. The basic ones are used to build the compound higher numbers. It is a matter of remembering the first six, then combining the ending 'pa-ken' up to 10, 'palen.' From there on up, the numbers use 'palen' to form the teens and so on. This is where the language CDs really help. It helps to hear and remember the pronunciation, then compare that to the handbook.

Our class ended very early, as we were invited to join in a staff members's birthday party. That turned out OK, as we informally discussed the names for the foods. We heard the names for beans, chicken, frybread, dumplings and other dishes, but for the life of me, I was too busy thinking about hompetv, eating, than remembering phrases. So, that's going to take more work.. It would seem like that would come naturally, but it didn't.

Homptev Cvyacetos—I like to eat. That comes naturally.

Hvtvm Cehecares—I will see you again.

Mvskoke Language Program to implement "Train the Trainer"

Media Release
Mvskoke Language Program

OKMULGEE — The Mvskoke Language Revitalization Program will enact the "Train the Trainer" program Nov. 7 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Lunch will be provided and participants are asked to RSVP.

A generation away from losing the language, the MCN language program is asking for help to teach and preserve the Mvskoke Language (opunvkv).

Currently, there is one community resource teacher on staff and the program is unable to reach all communities. Citizens can help by volunteering to teach in their individual communities or by teaching family members. By teaching, these few can help revitalize the dying Mvskoke language.

Fluent speakers of the Mvskoke Language are invited to speak with Mvskoke Language Program staff. Teachers will be available to provide assistance with how to teach the language.

For more information, contact Koko Lowe at 918 732-7724 or Minnie Proctor at 918 732-7725.

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MCN Division of Health Optometry Clinic receives national award

Media Release
MCN Division of Health

OKEMAH – The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Health Optometry clinic were recipients of a National IHS Director's Award held at the National Museum of the American Indian Aug. 2. The award was for the IHS Director's Award OKC Area Diabetic Retinopathy Outreach Program 2011.

In 1991, Dr. Fransen, a retinal specialist with the Dean Mcgee Eye Institute of the Oklahoma University College of Medicine, and Dr. Garber, an optometrist with the Chickasaw Nation in Ada, realized a need to help the Native American diabetic patients that had developed sight-threatening retinopathy.

Seeing this need, a program was developed and is now known as the Diabetic Retinopathy Outreach Program (DROP). Since its inception in 1997 it has grown to include several Service Units and Tribes within the Oklahoma Area including: Pawnee Service Unit, Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation and Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

The DROP has allowed each service unit and tribe, treats patients with Diabetic Retinopathy as well as other sight-threatening conditions and undoubtedly meets the mission of raising the physical health of patients. It also allows for a team effort between IHS, the tribes and the private sector.

The awardees from the MCN Division of Health were: Dr. James Lambert, Dr. Philip Whitlow, Dr. Terry Bush, Dr. Brandi Johnson, Felicia Williams, Kim Freeman, Sharla Harjo, Shelly Hagy and Rebecca Daggs. The Okemah Optometry Clinic provides a retina clinic once a month and techs come from the Koweta Clinic to assist with all patients for that day.

Natives favor federal holiday for American Indians

"It would show our young kids that we do have something to celebrate." — Sharon Hicks, Okfuskee

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — Should there be a national federal holiday for Native Americans and Alaska Natives?

According to most folks at the 2012 Fall Festival: yes.

Although the month of November has been named as official "National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month" for the last several years, there has not been a national federal holiday declared on a par with Columbus Day or Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Opposition to such a declaration said it was too expensive for the entire nation to take another day off for this observance.

Here's what the U.S. Department of Interior website says, in part:

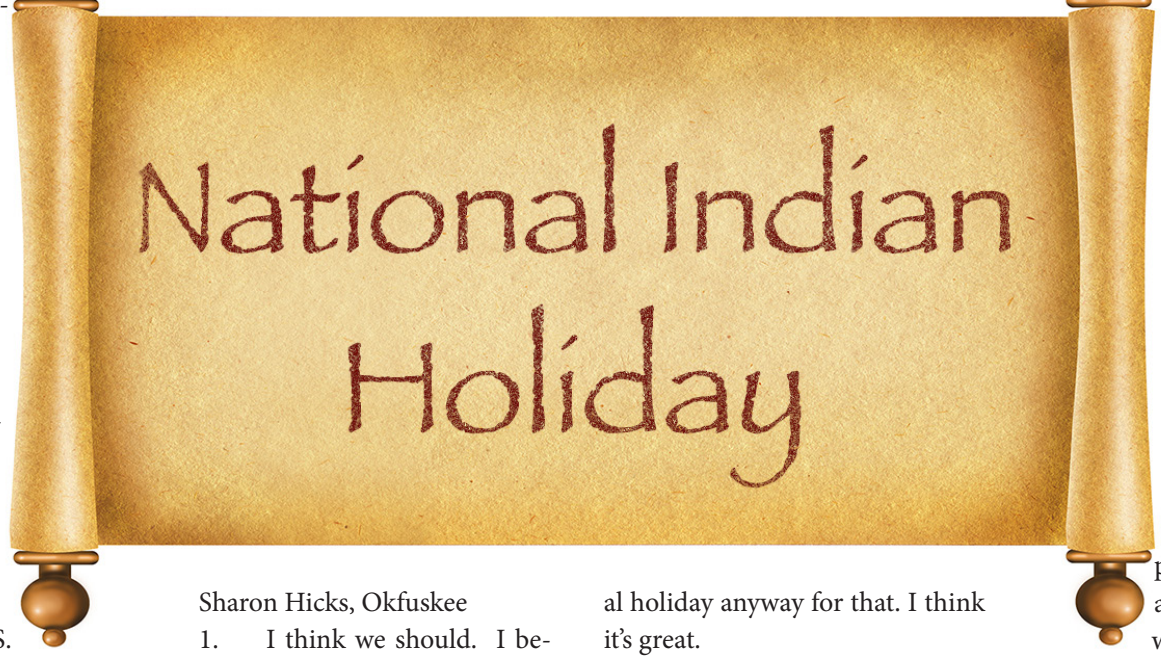
For almost one hundred years, Americans both Indian and non-Indian have urged that there be permanently designated by the nation a special place on the calendar to honor the contributions, achievements, sacrifices, and cultural and historical legacy of the original inhabitants of what is now the United States and their descendants: the American Indian and Alaska Native people.

The quest for a national honoring of Native Americans began in the early 20th century as a private effort. As far back as the late 1970s, Congress has enacted legislation and subsequent presidents have issued annual proclamations designating a day, a week or a month to celebrate and commemorate the nation's American Indian and Alaska Native heritage. In 2009, Congress passed and the President signed legislation that established the Friday immediately following Thanksgiving Day of each year as "Native American Heritage Day."

Each year between 1990 and the present, there has been a residential proclamation designating November as a month-long observance of Native heritage.

Many tribes, including the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, grant a paid holiday to their employees instead of taking the federal Columbus Day holiday.

Here's what a sampling of Native people attending the 2012 Fall Festival thought about the two questions: 1. Should there be a federal holiday for Native Americans? 2. Do you plan to do anything special to mark the occasion?



Sharon Hicks, Okfuskee

1. I think we should. I believe we should federally recognize a lot of us American Indians. It would show our young kids that we do have something to celebrate.

2. We do. In our community we do have a lot of celebrations and we tend to involve all of our younger kids.

Cherrah Giles, Jenks

1. I definitely think it's a start. We definitely deserve a federal holiday. I do believe we as Native Americans should keep pushing it and be a part of the political process, if you will, so that we can make our voices heard that we deserve a national holiday. We've made our own, within our tribal nation, but then, also just come together collectively as Native Americans to celebrate the month. Keep pushing towards putting on it the federal recognition as well.

2. I hope I celebrate being Native American every day, but at least for the month of November, really trying to reach out to my friends that aren't Native or don't understand the sovereignty that tribal nations have. Being a member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation going to Washington, D.C., to celebrate that so that other people can see what we do back here in Oklahoma and here in our capitol in Okmulgee.

Eunice Hill, Okemah

1. To me, I would think so. They should observe it just like anybody else.

2. No, not really. I didn't plan on anything. I do observe all of the holidays, so I think they ought to observe ours, too.

Reem Weathers, Tulsa

1. We should have a national holiday anyway for that. I think it's great.

2. Not that I know of yet.

Nicole Taylor, Henryetta

1. Yeah, I think we should have a day marking the occasion. I think we should have our own holiday. After everything we've been put through. Everybody else has a holiday. I mean we have Columbus Day, so why not a day for us?

2. We haven't had anything planned yet, but we probably will.

Rita Tulsa, Okmulgee

1. I think its good, so that everybody can appreciate the Natives. I think that Natives should have a day set aside for themselves, too, like all the other holidays and stuff. I think we should have some holiday for ourselves. I don't know what kind of holiday but just something for the people.

2. It's close to the holiday, too in November and I think that the holidays reflect off the Natives—Thanksgiving and all that. I don't know I might take off a day of work or something.

Carl West, Okmulgee

1. I think we need a federal holiday because Indians were the first ones here. They were the ones that showed the Pilgrims how to live.

2. We usually have a family gathering. I got both sides of my family, so I get to eat a lot of turkey.

Marcia Linn, Sapulpa

1. I don't think it's fair. There's holidays for Easter, all kinds of things—Valentine's Day. We should have a national day that recognizes Native Americans.

2. I don't know. If there are any kind, like this [Fall Festival], we would attend and take part in it.

Angela Good Voice—Lemons, Okmulgee

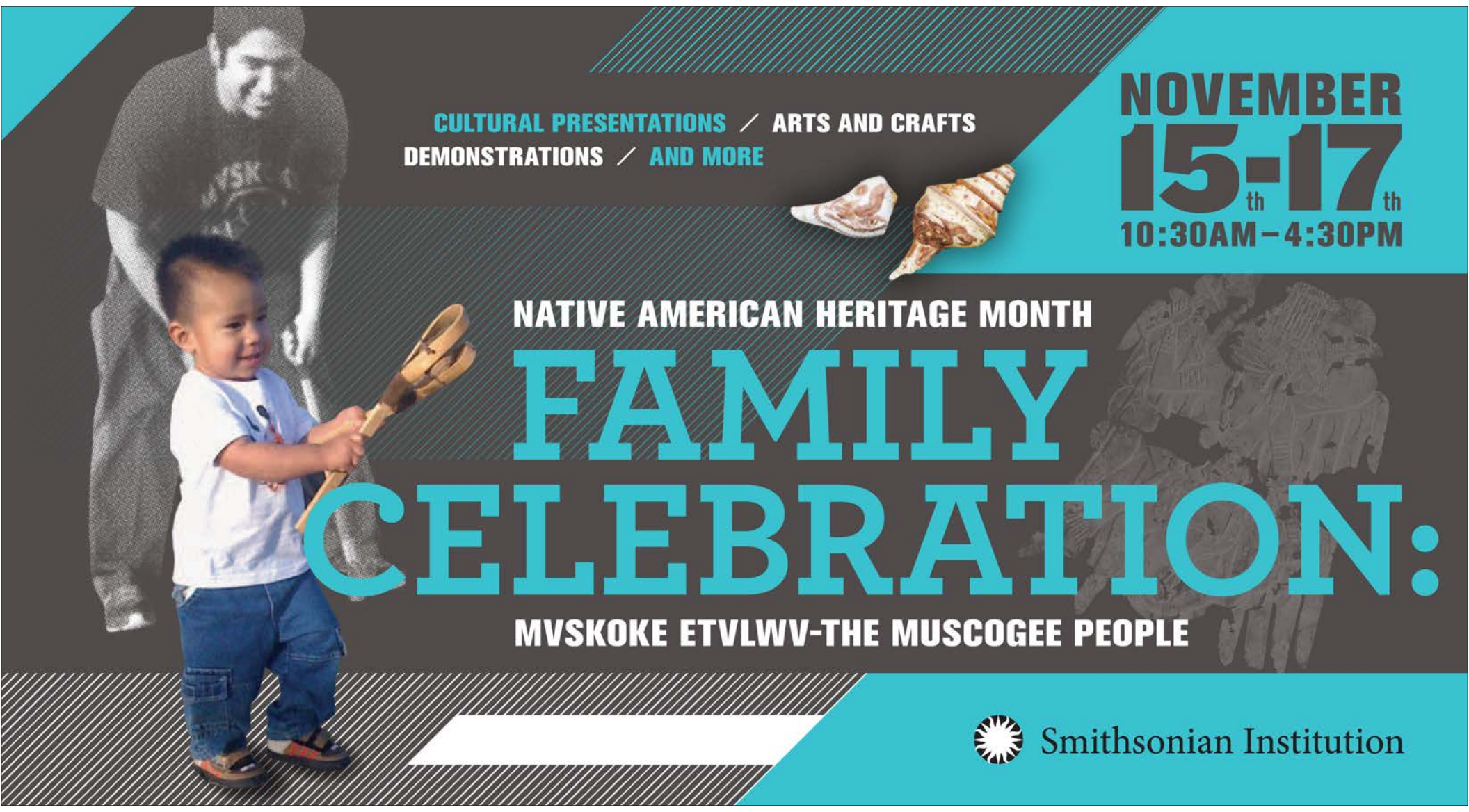
1. I believe so. I think it's very important, especially for my son. We moved back here to Okmulgee recently and I think it's very important that he learn about his culture here with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. I think having the month of November as Native American month is great for our nation.

2. Probably just spend more time with my son and I'm taking a Muscogee (Creek) language class now, working with him and teaching him how to count in Creek.

Jimmie Jones

1. I think we should have one. I think that Native people should have one and close the school up, too, like the rest of them do. We're equal with the rest of them. We're Native people and we were here before they were. So, I think we have that right to have a holiday of our own.

2. If they got something going own at my -church, Montesoma church, we usually participate in that.



MCN citizen named national principal of the year

Photo provided/Education Service District 105

Pictured is Muscogee (Creek) citizen Trevor Greene being honored as the 2012 National High School Principal of the Year.

Trevor Greene honored as National High School Principal of the Year for his work at Toppenish High School

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

TOPPENISH, Wash. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Trevor Greene was honored as the MetLife/NASP National High School Principal of the Year during a ceremony Sept. 6 at Toppenish High School located on the Yakama Indian Reservation in Toppenish, Wash. He was honored again at an event in Washington, D.C., Sept. 21 in recognition of National Principal's Month in October.

Greene was given this award for his administration of Toppenish, which is in the 99 percentile in terms of poverty and has a 95 percent minority student population.

Through the implementation of the Science Technology Education and Math (STEM) program, a national program targeted at advancing students in these areas, Greene was able to help improve Toppenish students' state science scores by 67 percent.

With his 11 years of experience as a teacher prior to taking the administrative position at Toppenish, Greene says he felt early on that changing the high school was a task he could not complete on his own.

"One of the things Malcolm Gladwell states in his book "The Outliers" is that 'no one in this life ever makes it alone,' " Greene said.

As a former teacher, Greene says his strategy has been to utilize the experience and input of the teaching staff already in place at the school.

One way he has implemented this strategy is by instructing his teachers to bring one or two solutions with them whenever they wish to bring a problem to his attention.

"Because I don't know the answer to everything and their answer maybe the best because they thought about this more than I have at the moment that I'm getting it," he said.

This coordination with his staff is part of his greater emphasis on building positive relationships with everyone involved in the education of his students.

This philosophy of positive relationships can be seen in another one of Greene's programs involving students and teachers.

Every teacher at Toppenish has been put in charge of an advisory class of 24 freshmen who meet with that teacher 24 minutes a day and the class stays assigned to that teacher throughout their high school career. This ongoing relationship is targeted at helping the students deal with social emotional and academic issues they may face.

"I don't know how much you know, I only know how much you care. That is what I see as my first step," he said.

Greene is also attempting to utilize this culture of strong relationships to address two of the school's greatest issues.

The demographic makeup of Toppenish has made it hard to unify the student and parent population.

Although the school is located on the Yakama Reservation, Toppenish has a much larger Hispanic population. This language and cultural barrier has caused a fracture between ethnicities at parent meetings.

"I think we've taken the first step, which is of course recognizing these issues," he said.

The school has also struggled with a lack of parental involvement.

"They tend to compartmentalize the education process. To them the student goes to school and the school is there to take care of the education of the child," Greene said.

Greene has strengthened relationships throughout Toppenish and the school's understanding of technology through the STEM program. Now he hopes to improve the school's relationship with parents through technology.

"We need to take advantage of technology as a school. We don't have a Facebook page and we don't use Twitter and if we could use the things students use to communicate with the parents we'll be able to make some gains in parental involvement," he said.

He also put emphasis on expanding their cultural events.

"For the third year in a row we've held our district pow-wow," Greene said.

His own personal native heritage as a Muscogee (Creek) citizen has helped Greene connect with the local tribe.

"I've had a lot of people with the Yakama Nation reach out and say how proud they are to have Native American win this award. This is the first time a Native American has won National Principal of the Year so it's a great honor to win but also to feel accepted," he said.

Greene grew up in the southwest and participated in Navajo and Hopi culture and his family later moved to the northwest where he has since been embraced by the Yakama Nation. He is Muscogee (Creek) through his father who was born in Oklahoma, however, Greene himself has never been back.

"I've seen that you have an emphasis on highlighting successful tribal members so maybe that is my opportunity to come back and visit," he said.

Although he has yet to reconnect with his roots in Oklahoma, Greene is still proud to be Muscogee (Creek) and hopes the nation shares a similar sentiment toward his accomplishments.

"I am proud of my heritage. Nothing would make me more pleased than to know that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is proud of me. It is a big part of who I am," he said.

MCN brings awareness to domestic violence during Oct.

MNN/Gerald Wofford

Alicia Thompson gives Ann Marsha information during the domestic violence awareness event at the Mound Building Oct. 10.

Gerald Wofford
MNN Feature Writer

OKMULGEE — In recognition of Family Violence Prevention month, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program held domestic violence awareness programs and events throughout October featuring survivor panels and audience participation. The theme of this year's event was 'The Voice.' The program hosted an awareness rally Oct. 10 at the Mound Building Auditorium where attendees received information about domestic violence.

Denise McCrary, a case worker with the program, is glad to see these events, "We want to bring awareness to this ugly thing called domestic violence," said McCrary, "We want to bring attention to our communities that it exists and we want to educate, we want to bring this to the forefront, that this affects our neighbors across the street, the people we work with. We would be surprised by just how many people we know that are really affected by this."

The survivor panel included personal testimonies from four Muscogee women who told of their struggles and situations they found themselves in.

"Native women are four to five times more likely to experience domestic violence than any other race and that is huge," said McCrary, "It would be like if you had a family reunion and you had 12 people there, three people out of those 12 would be counted as victims. We want to keep women from ever facing this situation."

The Domestic Violence Prevention Program became independent Oct. 1 after being affiliated and housed with MCN Children and Family Services department for years. McCrary hopes this will help expand services.

"We have eight staff members in the office who are advocates. We also have a therapist, as well as teen dating advocate, we also do service assistance with protective orders, court advocacy, getting to emergency shelters, all anyone has to do is ask, we take each one by a case-by-case situation."

Events were also held in other communities including Holdenville and Eufaula. For more information, call 918-732-7869.

MNN/Gerald Wofford

Survivors of domestic violence discuss personal stories during the 'Survivors Panel' at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation domestic violence awareness event held in Okmulgee, Okla.

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"Caring when it counts"

Yahola named AMAIRA Region 8 Mutton Bustin' Champion

Darren DeLaune
MNN Sports Writer

TAHLEQUAH — Chebonee Yahola competed against several cowboys and cowgirls during Labor Day weekend last month in the Arrington–McSpadden All Indian Rodeo Association (AMAIRA) Region 8 for the National Indian Finals Rodeo held in Tahlequah, Okla.

Yahola, 5, was the one that walked away with the belt buckle as the winner as the 2012 Year End Champion for mutton bustin'.

Mutton bustin' is a category in rodeo for cowboys and cowgirls as young as three and up to seven years. The sport is similar to steer and bull riding, however, instead of riding the larger animals, participants ride sheep for six seconds. In bull riding, contestants are required to stay on for eight seconds.

Like bull riders, mutton bustin' contestants wear full protection gear, which includes helmets, gloves, mouthpieces and vests.

This was Yahola's first year in the sport as a novice cowboy.

Yahola also won a buckle and $84 cash at the Bull Riding Extravaganza Sept. 15 at the RV Ranch near Duck Creek.

According to his grandmother, Sydney Martin, in the several events he has competed in, he has not been bucked or hurt.

"I love that he is interested in the sport," Martin said. "I was scared when he first started, because I was afraid that he would get hurt. So for six seconds, I am holding my breath. I am very proud of him."

Yahola loves everything about rodeo. He wants to be in team roping when he is older so he's learning to rope.

Yahola is in kindergarten at Okmulgee Primary and his hobbies are rodeo, basketball, playing with his friends and learning in school.

Yahola, Creek-Seminole, is the son of Annie Yahola and Clifton Poole. Grandmother is Sydney Martin. His clan is Fuswv (Bird) and his tribal town is Thlopthlocco.

Photo provided/Yahola Family
Pictured above is Muscogee (Creek) citizen Chebonee Yahola who was recently named the AMAIRA Region 8 Mutton Bustin' Champion.

Tarpalechee represents MCN through NAPT projects

Rebecca Landsberry
MNN Editor

LINCOLN, Neb. — From valedictorian, to college dropout, back to valedictorian, Tyler Blue Tarpalechee's scholastic voyage has been enlightening, if not a little bumpy.

"My educational journey has been unique," he said.

Growing up in Okmulgee, Okla., Tarpalechee was the valedictorian of his class at Morris High School. He served the Muscogee (Creek) Nation as a summer youth employee for three summers before attending the University of Oklahoma in Norman on a full academic scholarship for petroleum engineering from 2004-2005.

"I like to look at it as a failure that led to further success . . . I was young, cocky; I thought I was the smartest kid in the room . . . I wasn't ready to be a successful college student . . . I think the last class I passed at OU was softball," he remembered.

He dropped out of the university during his sophomore year to pursue his then-dream of becoming a professional video game player.

He eventually returned to Okmulgee where he found a job with the local Creek Nation casino where he worked in the vault.

"I didn't want to sit back here and grow old and count other people's money for the rest of my life," he said.

After quitting the casino job, Tarpalechee thought he found a career as a postal worker.

"I had convinced myself that school wasn't for me, I was gonna be a mailman," Tarpalechee said.

After talking with a friend, Tarpalechee decided to leave Okmulgee for a change of scenery and make the move out West.

"I spent my birthday, in February of 2008, in Santa Fe, sleeping in a kitchen with electric heaters trying to keep me warm," Tarpalechee recalled.

After wandering into a theater a few weeks later during a native directors' showcase, he came across Seminole / Muscogee (Creek) filmmaker Sterlin Harjo's "Four Sheets to the Wind," on the big screen.

"I know it sounds cheesy, but that film really changed the course of my life. I thought, there's no reason why I can't assert myself and get an education . . . I owe it to myself to give school one more shot," Tarpalechee said.

Tarpalechee's new course focused on studying film at the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) in Santa Fe, N.M., where he graduated again as valedictorian of his class in 2012.

He worked in native communities and completed multimedia internships before recently being hired as Project Coordinator for Native American Public Telecommunications Inc. (NAPT) upon graduation, according to a media release from the organization.

MNN/Rebecca Landsberry
Tyler Blue Tarpalechee was recently recognized for his work as producer of the film "Paranormal Investigators: Tribal College Edition" where he received first place in the college division at the 2012 Mvskoke Film Festival.

"Blue is a great addition to the NAPT staff," commented Shirley K. Sneve, Executive Director of NAPT. "His studies at IAIA have brought him a depth of knowledge about tribal cultures across the country, as well as a good knowledge of what it takes to make a successful documentary."

Tarpalechee is currently working on the production of the series, "Growing Native," which examines the relationship between tribes and Native American food production and native cultures across the U.S.

"'Growing Native' is really about preserving our culture and looking to traditional ways of addressing contemporary problems," he said.

He explained that future episodes will emphasize food, language, art, sports and events.

"Each of those avenues is a way in which, a native person can not only highlight their own culture but can reinvigorate their own life," he said.

Tarpalechee said the series will examine Mvskoke culture during an Oklahoma episode through the traditional game of stickball and the Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative, however, specific details are still being outlined.

"We used to have seasonal diets, regional diets and now we can get whatever we want, whenever we want. That's not the way that, traditionally, our ancestors took care of themselves. What would it look like if we were to showcase our traditional food ways?" he asked.

Other episodes will focus on regions of the U.S., including: Alaska, the northern plains, the great lakes, the Southwest and California.

"As the show goes on, we're finding more and more examples of ways that traditionally, our values can be applied to these contemporary issues," he said.

As project coordinator, Tarpalechee also instructs educators about cultural resources available to them through Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) Learning Media.

"Education is of the utmost importance for me, and I think for Indian Country - making sure that our images that we want out there, not images that others put out there [are seen]. The only way we can ever really know what the right image is, is if we make it ourselves," Tarpalechee said.

At the most basic level, he is passionate about telling native stories from the native perspective.

"I represent Creek Nation wherever I go and I feel like people know where I come from. That gives me all the motivation I need to do a good job. You have to make sure that you are representing those communities that are in those stories in the right way," he said.

For exclusive clips of "Growing Native," visit nativetelecom.org/growingnative.

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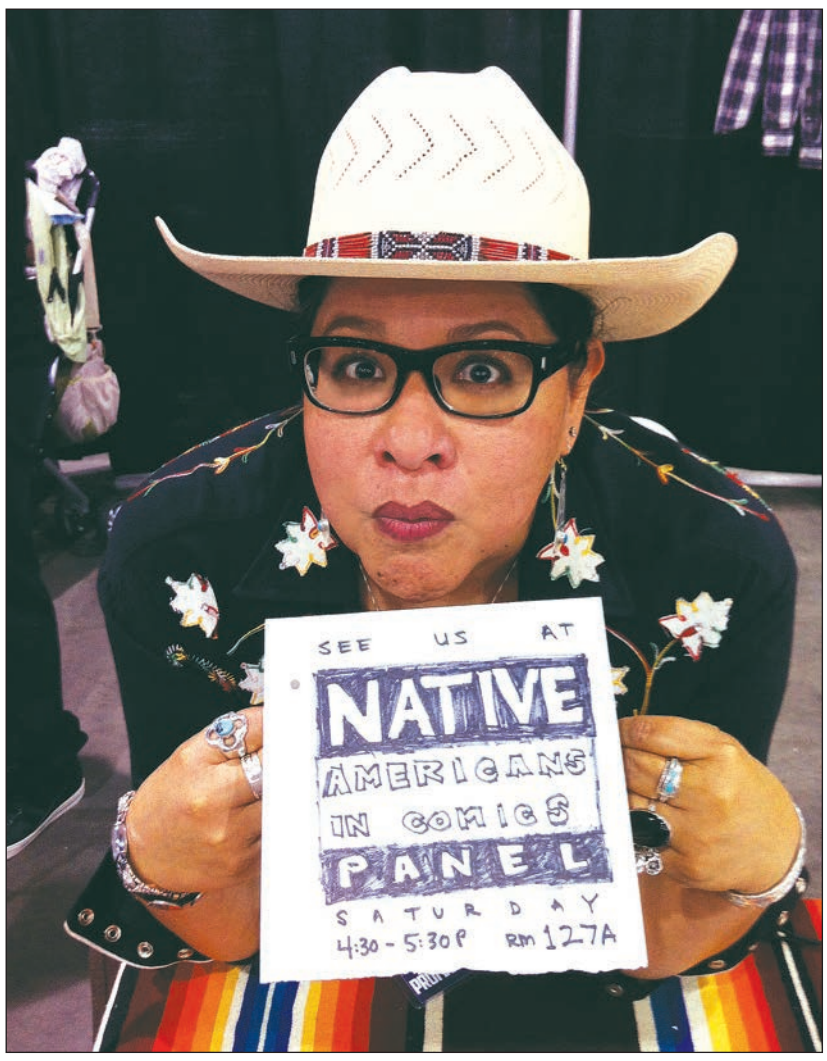
Native entertainer releases comic book series in print

Arigon Starr completes the first volume of her comic book series entitled "Super Indian"

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter



Photos provided/Arigon Starr
Native entertainer Arigon Starr recently completed the first volume of her comic book series, "Super Indian."

LOS ANGELES — "In a mysterious government lab, Dr. Eaton Crowe adds an unstable compound, Rezium, to an ordinary block of commodity cheese in order to enhance its nutritional value. The cheese reaches the Leaning Oak Reservation and is served at a birthday party for Derek Thunder. Derek and his friend, Hubert Logan, eat the cheese and are drastically altered forever."

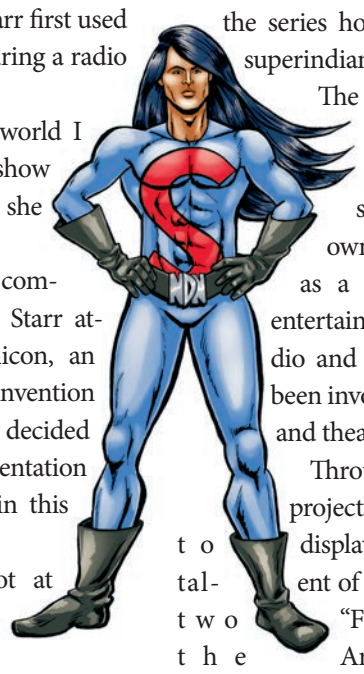
These lines were lifted straight from the first issue of Native American entertainer Arigon Starr's comic book series "Super Indian."

"The background for 'Super Indian' is that this rez kid eats tainted commodity cheese and gets super powers," Starr said.

Much like the fated mixture that created this Native superhero, "Super Indian" is a combination of action and comedy.

Like its main character, the "Super Indian" comic itself has an origin story of its own. Starr first used the concept in 2007 during a radio show in Los Angeles.

"I took this whole world I created for the radio show and started drawing it," she said.



A fan of classic comics like "The X-Men," Starr attended Phoenix Comicon, an annual comic book convention in Phoenix, Ariz., and decided to advance the representation of Native Americans in this medium.

"The advice I got at Comicon was [to] start it as a web comic and if people really want a printed version, they will let you know," Starr said.

This advice paid off and through the success of the "Super Indian" web series, Starr soon received requests for printed copies of her work.

"People still want the physical book…I finally got to the end of issue three and started issue four and decided that I need a book," Starr said.

Starr continues to upload new issues of "Super Indian" every Monday. Physical copies of Volume One are also available for purchase on the series homepage at: www.superindiancomics.com.

The background of "Super Indian" displays only a small part of Starr's own personal origin as a Native American entertainer. Aside from radio and comics, Starr has been involved in TV, music and theater.

Through her creative projects, Starr continues to display a superhuman talent of her own, winning two "First Americans in the Arts Awards" for her acting, "Song/Single of the Year" at the Native American Music Awards where she was also named "Songwriter of the Year" and receiving a positive review from the Los Angeles Times for her work as a playwright, composer and performer in "The Red Road."

Early in her career, Starr was a publicist for First Americans in the Arts where she learned a lot about being successful by observing those already in the entertainment business.

"I just learned that you have to stay centered and focused," said Starr. "This business is hard because there are a lot of distractions in Hollywood; there are a lot of distractions anywhere."

Kickapoo and Muscogee (Creek), Starr's also credits her Native origins for her success.

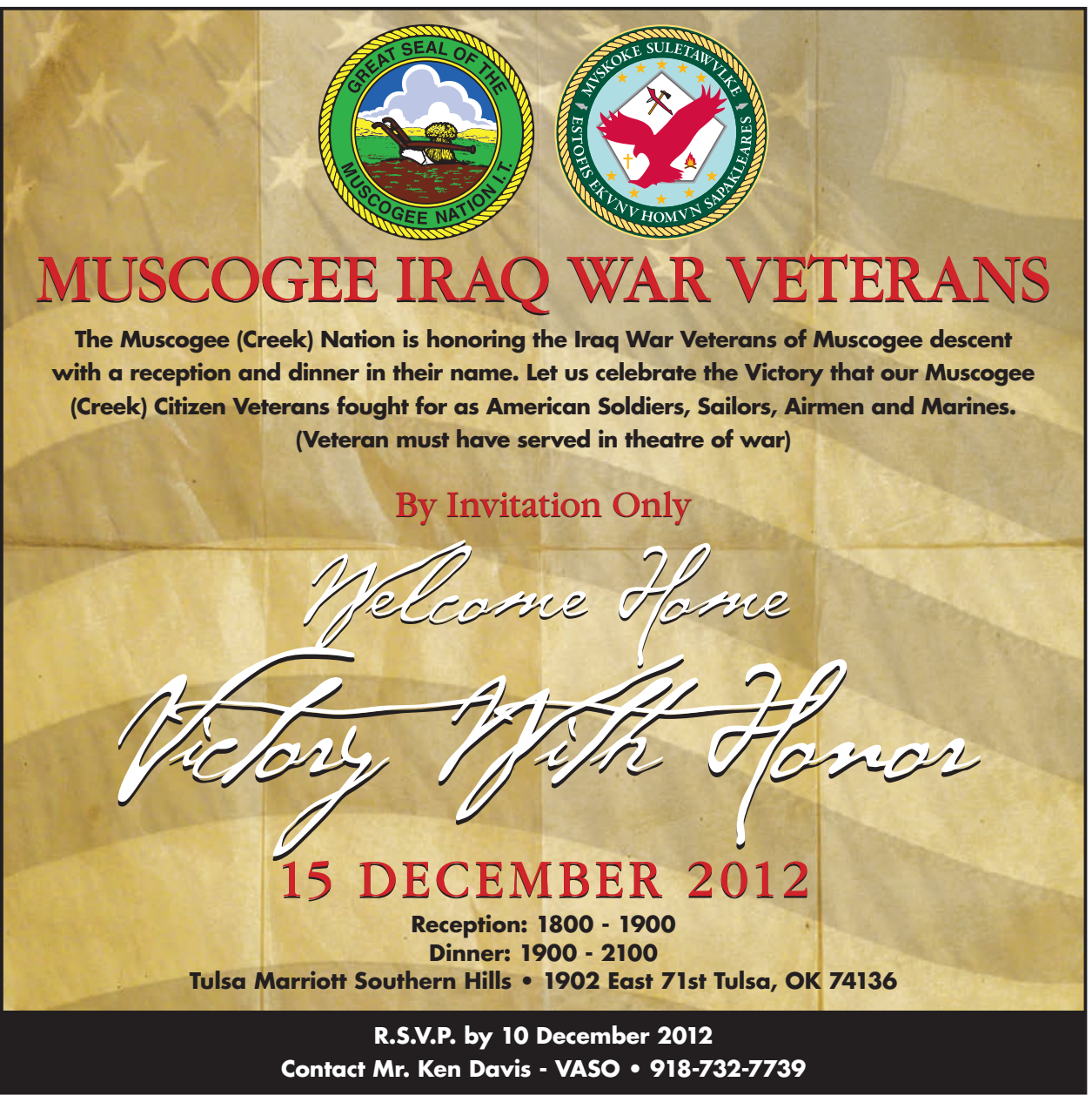
"I have been blessed with talent. I really have to thank my family. My mom (Ruth Wahpecome) is Creek and living there in Okmulgee right now," she said.

When she was young, Starr's father was in the military, which required her family to move frequently. This early experience acclimated Starr to life on the road as a touring musician and the idea of moving to pursue her Hollywood dreams.

"I was not afraid to move to a new place and meet new people. It was not even an issue," she said.

Starr credits the citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation for her success.

"I would like to tell them, "Mvto," because the people there have been really supportive of my work," she said.


GREAT SEAL OF THE MUSCOGEE NATION I.T.
MVSKOKE SULETAWVLKE ESTOFIS EKVNV HOMVN SAPAKLEARES
MUSCOGEE IRAQ WAR VETERANS
The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is honoring the Iraq War Veterans of Muscogee descent with a reception and dinner in their name. Let us celebrate the Victory that our Muscogee (Creek) Citizen Veterans fought for as American Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines.
(Veteran must have served in theatre of war)
By Invitation Only
Welcome Home
Victory With Honor
15 DECEMBER 2012
Reception: 1800 - 1900
Dinner: 1900 - 2100
Tulsa Marriott Southern Hills • 1902 East 71st Tulsa, OK 74136
R.S.V.P. by 10 December 2012
Contact Mr. Ken Davis - VASO • 918-732-7739

AARP Oklahoma honors elders including four MCN members

Media Release
AARP

OKLAHOMA CITY – Thirty five Oklahoma Native American tribes and Nations joined with AARP to celebrate the lives of honored elders at the 4th annual AARP Indian Elder Honors held Oct. 2 in Oklahoma City.

Tribal officials, friends and family members converged at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum along with AARP state, regional and national officials to recognize language preservationists, artists, dancers, ministers, authors, patriarchs and matriarchs that have impacted their tribes, communities and state.

AARP also announced the formation of an Inter-Tribal Community Group that will meet on community issues and is open to all 50+ Native American groups in Oklahoma.

Among honorees recognized at the event was one of the few remaining Oklahoma Indians who speaks only her native language, a world-champion fancy dancer and a noted artist who is 100 years old.

AARP National Board Member Joan Ruff, who delivered the keynote address, said, "We hope the partnerships we've established here will be the foundation to create partnerships between AARP and other Native American nations in other states. But tonight our focus isn't on AARP. It's on you, the elders, and the contributions you've made to improve the lives of people around you – in your own tribes, the greater tribal community, in the state of Oklahoma, our nation, and even around the world. Your lives are rich, living stories being passed on to the next generations."

Ruff, along with AARP Oklahoma State President Marjorie Lyons, Regional Vice President Nancy Stockbridge and Associate State Director Mashell Sourjohn presented each honoree with a medallion.

AARP has a dedicated website featuring resources and information for Oklahoma Indian Elders which can be accessed at: www.aarp.org/okindiannavigator.org 2012

Fredo "Chubby" Anderson, Muscogee (Creek) has been employed with the Muscogee Creek Nation since 1974.

Most of his years have been spent working with offenders. Anderson attends court and parole hearings for both men and women inmates and provides tours of the prisons for adults and youth offenders as requested.

During his employment with the Muscogee Creek Nation, Anderson has worked under five principal chiefs. Anderson has worked with the Oklahoma state boxing team in the maximum security level and has trained and boxed with inmates.

Anderson received the award for volunteer of the year in 1999 by Warden Debbie Mahaffey at Eddie Warrior Correctional Center for Women in Taft, Okla.

Grace Bunner, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town and member of the Bird Clan, was the first woman to serve two, four-year terms as the Thlopthlocco Town Mekko.

Under her leadership, she negotiated and entered into Memorandums of Agreements and compacts with many federal and state agencies for the first time in tribal town history.

She successfully lead litigation efforts regarding tribal town ownership of oil/gas minerals and revenues, increased the tribal town's land base and annual budget, secured new programs, was instrumental in securing funding for renovation of tribal headquarters and negotiated an agreement for Housing Authority funding. Bunner offers thanks to the Thlopthlocco Tribal Business Committee members who served with her during her terms of office who she says were instrumental in helping move the tribal town forward

George Coser, Muscogee (Creek), has worked at the Tulsa Indian Health Care Resource Center as a Chemical Dependency Counselor and with adolescents in the Muscogee (Creek)Nation.

Coser has worked for the Smithsonian on native language and recovery of tribal remains, and traveled as an Ambassador for the tribe in the Tulsa Sister City cultural exchange program with Germany. He is in the Redman singing group for powwows and is in demand as MC at many of these events. He continues to teach the Mvskoke language.

Rebecca Lindsey, Muscogee (Creek), helps the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community Health Department with projects including volunteering as a group leader at the Adult Diabetes Camp, serving as co-facilitator in the Living Longer, Living Stronger Program and helps on the planning committee for the MCN Diabetes Awareness Summit.

Lindsey is a community advocate for tribal programs (walking program, exercise classes, camps, elder prevention program) by attending and making sure others have a ride to attend. She inspires other elders to make healthier choices and to participate in the different programs offered by the Wewoka Indian Health Center, Seminole Nation Diabetes Program, and the MCN Diabetes Program.

She is a role model for health for elders in the Wewoka-area Tonkawa Tribe and Vice Mayor of the city of Tonkawa.

INTER-TRIBAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Sometimes we forget who we really are and who we truly are as Native people. . . We are taught love, respect, caring for one another; from the elders, to the warriors to the women, to the children," he said.

The Inter-Tribal Council was founded Feb. 3, 1950 and is the oldest tribal organization in the U.S., representing three of the four largest federally recognized tribes and nearly 625,000 enrolled citizens.

A study released Oct. 4 by the Steven C. Agee Economic Research and Policy Institute (ERPI) at Oklahoma City University estimates that the 38 federally recognized Oklahoma tribes have an economic impact of over $10.8 billion in the state.

According to the report, tribes employed 53,747 individuals as of 2010, made direct payroll contributions of $1.5 billion to Oklahoma residents and generated $5.6 billion in revenue from tribal operations.

The Choctaw Nation will host the next quarterly meeting in January 2013 in Durant, Okla.

Community Calendar November 2012

Buckeye Creek to host volleyball tournament Nov. 3

OKEMAH — Buckeye Creek Baptist Church will host a co-ed volleyball tournament Nov. 3 at Mekusukey Mission Gym.

For more information call Tamara Berryhill 918-623-8042 or Lucille Harjo 580-641-2675.

MCN Reintegration Program to host 4th annual Holiday Toy Drive

HENRYETTA — The MCN Reintegration Program (RIP) is having its 4th annual Holiday Toy Drive to ensure that children with incarcerated family members have gifts for the holidays.

For more information including drop off sites call 918-652-2676.

Little Cussetah to host revival Nov. 7-9

SAPULPA — Little Cussetah United Methodist Church will host a revival Nov. 7-9 beginning at 7 p.m., nightly.

Pastor Paul Fixico will preach with Salt Creek UMC giving the devotion Nov. 7.

Jamie Moss will preach with Haikey Chapel giving the devotion Nov. 8.

Rev. David Little will preach with New Town Church giving the devotion Nov. 9.

All are also invited to attend the gospel singing Nov. 10 beginning at 7 p.m.

For more information, contact Paul Tecumseh at 918-270-0231.

MCN Senior Services to honor veterans Nov. 7

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Senior Services meeting will be held Nov. 7 at the Rowe Family Life Center where attendees will honor MCN veterans in recognition of Veteran's Day Nov. 11. The regular meeting will follow.

There are 20 seats remaining for the Washington, D.C., trip Nov. 15-17, for the Mvskoke Etvlwv exhibit at the Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian.

Spots are available for MCN elders 55 years and older who haven't gone on a trip with the MCN Senior Services department this calendar year.

For more information, please contact David Dunson at MCN Senior Services at 918-732-7699.

MCN Tribal Driveways Program accepting applications

OKMULGEE — The Tribal Driveways Program is accepting applications for repair of accessible driveways for property owners who reside within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation boundaries. Applicant must be enrolled with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation tribe.

Organization applications are also available for Muscogee (Creek) Nation ceremonial grounds, tribal towns, community centers, churches and when needed, family cemeteries that are within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation boundaries.

For more information or to request an application call 918-732-7651 or 1-800-482-1979.

MCN Tribal Walking Program

Who: Any American Indian 12 years and older living within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation jurisdiction and spouse or parent of an American Indian Walking Program participant.

What: The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Diabetes Program is offering an incentive based walking program to encourage its citizens to be more physically active all year round.

Where and When:

Koweta Clinic Area Communities- *Contact: Taylor Thompson @ 918-807-1561*

Muskogee Community Sign-up: November 8, 6:00-7:00pm @ New Muscogee Community Center - (335 N. 4th St Muskogee, OK 74401)
Tulsa Community Sign-up: November 13, 6:00-7:00pm @ Tulsa Community Center - (8611 S. Union Tulsa, OK 74132)
Koweta Community Sign-up: November 15, 6:00-7:00pm @ Koweta Community Center - (30901 E 141st St Coweta, OK 74429)
Koweta Clinic Employee Sign-up: November 14, 3:00-4:00 In the Diabetes Kitchen

Okmulgee Clinic Area Communities- *Contact: William Fixico @ 918-637-9683*

Morris/Twin Hills Community Sign-up: November 5, 6:00-7:00pm @ Morris Trinity Baptist Church
Yardeka Community Sign-up: November 8, 6:30-7:30pm @ Yardeka Community Center
Dewar/Wilson Community Sign-up: November 13, 6:00-7:00pm @ Dewar Community Center
Okmulgee Community Sign-up: November 15, 6:30-7:30pm @ Okmulgee Elderly Housing
Okmulgee Clinic Sign-up: November 20, 5:15-6:15 pm @ Diabetes Building

Sapulpa Clinic Area Communities- *Contact: Duane Meadows @ 918-695-1325*

Glenpool/Duck Creek - November 1st from 6pm-7pm @ Glenpool Indian Community Center (13839 S Casper)
Sapulpa - November 5th from 6pm-7pm @ Sapulpa Indian Community Center (1020 North Brown)
Kellyville - November 6th from 6pm-7pm @ Kellyville Indian Community Center (18901 W. Hwy 66)
Bristow - November 13th from 6pm-7pm @ Bristow Indian Community Center (710 S. Main)

Eufaula Clinic Area Communities- *Contact: Kimberlee Little @ 918-637-9684*

Hanna-November 1st from 6pm-7pm @ Hanna School Gym
Stidham-November 5th from 6pm-7pm @ Stidham Community Center
Eufaula-November 6th from 6pm-7pm @ Eufaula Indian Community
Checotah-November 13th from 6pm-7pm @ Checotah Indian Community
EIHC Employees-November 14th from 12-1pm; 2-3pm & 5-6pm @Diabetes Building

Okemah Clinic Area Communities- *Contact: Irene Culley @ 918-636-8735*

November 1st from 6-7 pm @ Okemah Indian Community
November 5th from 6-7 pm @ Paden School Cafeteria
November 6th from 6-7 pm @ Weleetka Indian Community
November 8th from 6- 7 pm @ Holdenville Indian Community
November 13th from 6 -7pm @ Okfuskee Indian Community
November 15th from 6 - 7pm @ Wetumka Indian Community

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Walking Program is excited to get you started in our program, whether you are a new or returning participant. We will have incentives, pedometers, and we will be offering gift cards for finishing the program in a healthy level. If you are unable to make the sign-up in your community, feel free to come to a community sign-up in your clinic area to join our program. We hope to see you there!

Inside the MNN:

Poll - Did you vote in the U.S. election?
See "Poll" - Page 2

People - 'Mvskoke Etvlwv'
See "Mvskoke" - Page 3

Smithsonian
National Museum of the American Indian

Muscogee Nation News

Official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and a production of Mvskoke Media

MCN purchases naming rights to Tulsa event center

MCN TR 12-152 approved $1.44 million annual contract with Tulsa County Fair Board

Rebecca Landsberry
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) purchased naming rights to the QuikTrip Center at Expo Square for an annual $1.44 million ($120,000 a month) for seven years. MCN Principal Chief George Tiger signed tribal resolution for the agreement with Tulsa County Public Facilities Authority Oct. 17.

According to a press release from the MCN Public Relations Department, Tiger is pleased with the nation's negotiation of the contract.

"Before this agreement, the tribe was paying about $3.6 million a year under our gaming compact," Tiger said. "Now we will only be paying $1.44 million a year and we get naming rights to the Expo Center."

The tribe's deal with the Tulsa County Fair Board will begin in January 2013 and run through 2019. It proposes a name change from 'QuikTrip Center' to the 'Muscogee (Creek) Nation Center' for the over 448,000-square-foot facility located on the state fairgrounds in Tulsa.

The new deal will equal an estimated $15 million in savings for the MCN over the next seven years.

"These cost savings… will be additional monies available to the Nation for health, education, social service and economic development for our tribal citizens," stated Tiger. "In addition, the Nation's seal and signage with be prominently featured on the 448,000 square foot Expo Center at the Fairgrounds. This will greatly increase the visibility of the Nation and help in our marketing efforts," said Tiger.

The contract will provide the first rights for the proposal of land development where the old Drillers Stadium is currently situated to the MCN as well as terminate live horse racing at the fairgrounds' racetrack.

See Expo - 2

MNN/Darren DeLaune
Pictured above is Tulsa Expo's QuikTrip Center. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation purchased the naming rights to the facility with a contract that will begin in January 2013.

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Nov. 15, 2012
Vol. 42, Issue 22
"Ehole"
Frost Month

News anchor inspires at 10th annual Pink Party

OIHC's annual breath cancer awareness event celebrates 10 years

Rebecca Landsberry
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE — Participants crowded the Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology campus in Covelle Hall for the Okmulgee Indian Health Center's 2012 Pink Party for breast cancer awareness Oct. 31. The 10th annual event aimed to bring a greater understanding of the disease, including potential risk factors and the options and information for treatment and recovery.

Breast cancer survivor and news anchor LeAnne Taylor from Channel 6 gave the keynote address to attendees. In 2003, Taylor performed a self-breast exam and noticed a lump. She recounted the conversation with her doctor when she went in for a biopsy.

"I'm sorry. The news isn't good, you have breast cancer," she said.

Taylor was 41 at the time and in good health.

"My world was turned upside down… I just wanted the cancer gone. I wanted whatever it would take for it to be over," she said.

Taylor's doctor recommended chemotherapy as part of her treatment plan.

"It was more a form of prevention. If one single cancer cell had traveled anywhere else in my body and was multiplying, by the time they found it later on, it might be too late," she remembered.

See Pink - 3

MNN/Rebecca Landsberry
Breast cancer survivor and Channel 6 news anchor LeAnne Taylor gave the keynote address to attendees of Okmulgee Indian Health Center's annual Pink Party Oct. 31 at OSUIT's Covelle Hall in Okmulgee, Okla.

National Council hears budget report during quarterly session

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) National Council, heard Principal Chief George Tiger speak of the new tobacco compact with the State of Oklahoma, a balanced and streamlined budget, a new tribal scholarship program and $130,000 raised at the recent Hall of Fame gala, during the quarterly session, Oct. 27.

In legislative action, the council approved a business plan for Internet gaming, permanently approved funding for community and church Christmas activities and authorized the tribal health department to implement a new behavioral health program.

• TR 12-135 directing the Gaming Operations and Authority Board to conduct adequate research and prepare a business plan addressing Internet gaming. Sponsored by Rep. Sam Alexander. Passed by 14 to 0.

See October - 3

MvskokeMedia

Muscogee Nation News Staff

Manager
Christina Good Voice

Editor
Rebecca Landsberry

Editorial Assistant
Gary Fife

Reporter
Sterling Cosper

Sports Writer
Darren DeLaune

Feature Writer
Gerald Wofford

Circulation
Wilma Lewis

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Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

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To submit a change of address or a letter to the editor, call (918) 732-7720 or send e-mail to: wlewis@mcn-nsn.gov

NAJA
Members of the Native American Journalists Association

Mvskoke Media poll: Did you vote in the U.S. election?

Citizens and employees share why they voted in the national election Nov. 6

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) participated in the National Congress of American Indians' Native Vote 2012 "Every Vote Counts" campaign to motivate Native Americans to vote in the 2012 national election.

A voter registration drive was held at the Mound Building located on the MCN Capitol Complex Sept. 25 and T-shirts and fliers were distributed as part of the effort. Members of Mvskoke Media visited several polling places around Okmulgee and visited with Muscogee (Creek) citizens and employees as they turned out to vote.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Carl Lee

"It's our civil duty to help shape the policy of our country. If we don't stay educated on the issues then we really don't have a voice and it's important to keep our voice alive."

MNN/Sterling Cosper
Muscogee (Creek) citizens showed up at polls throughout Okmulgee to vote on Election Day Nov. 6.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Quannah Davis:

"Whoever the president is will be responsible for providing funds to the tribes. Our ancestors didn't have a voice for anything, they just had to endure whatever policies were put upon them. This is a way for you to choose and get empowered."

MCN Environmental Specialist Mike Salsman

"I'm a tribal member. I just consider things that could be taken away from our tribe. Money could be taken away from our tribe. What some people think is a waste is some people's livelihood, so that has made the most difference in the way I vote this year. I'm excited and proud and I think it's a very eventful day for everyone that votes."

MCN Diabetes Program Coordinator Johnnie Brausell

"It's a routine for me; I always vote. I want Barack Obama to win, although I know he won't win in Oklahoma. I'm hoping he will win nationally. This is my only voice. We only have that voice nationally and I think that we should use it.

For Indians, it has taken us a long time to say we're part of the country. We are feeling more and more part of the country and I think that they're listening to us more, especially Barack Obama. I really think that some of his healthcare initiatives are really going to benefit us."

MCN Division of Health (DOH) Communication Technician Chris Natseway

"I voted because it's our constitutional right and I think everyone should take advantage of that and get their voices heard. It's really one of the few times we can do that. It is very important that the Native community get out and vote because there are a lot of issues in Washington D.C., that concern Native Americans."

MCN DOH Secretary of Health Lt. Seneca Smith

"As a Creek citizen, it's our opportunity and we do have the right to vote. A lot of times, as Creek citizens, we didn't think we had the right to vote. It's our time to exercise our voice and what we feel is important for the direction of the country as Muscogee (Creek) citizens."

Expo

Continued from Page 1

"Because of the expansion of Indian gaming, not only here in Oklahoma, but across the country. . . it did hurt the horse racing industry. However, we feel like that particular part of it is going to be continuing in other places," Tiger said.

According to Tiger, plans for the acquisition began in late January 2012 and do not include a casino.

"The Muscogee (Creek) Nation will not be building a casino at that site," Tiger said.

Tiger said the other tribal nations near the area, including the Osage and Cherokee, were supportive of the deal.

"It is important that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has the ability to work with other communities… Initially when we did the gaming compact, there was some concern with the horse racing association here in Oklahoma, about the loss of revenues to them. The Osage, Muscogee (Creek) and the Cherokees got together and basically fostered an agreement with the Tulsa County Fair Board and others to allow for this unique relationship," he said.

MNN/Rebecca Landsberry
Pictured from left to right are Fair Meadows Race Director Ron Shotts, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger and President and CEO of Tulsa Expo Square Mark Andrus.

During a press conference Nov. 2 in the Administration Building on the MCN Capitol Complex in Okmulgee, Okla., Tiger felt that overall, the deal is beneficial for the tribe.

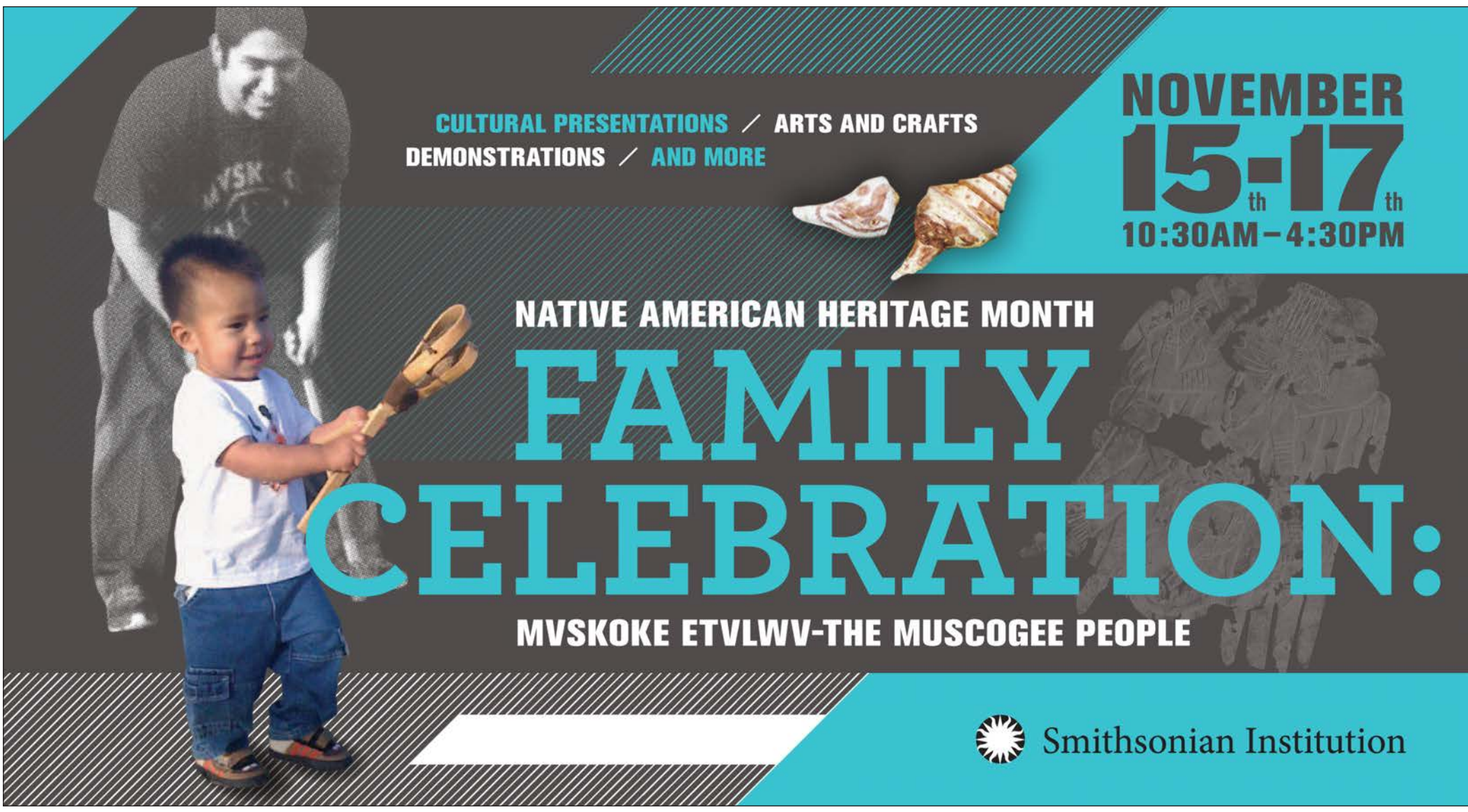
"It's a win-win for everybody," Tiger said.

He went on to mention that collaboration between the tribe and local entities is important to the advancement of the MCN.

"We saw it as an opportunity for Muscogee (Creek) Nation to not only promote whatever is going to be going on within the Expo Center but also promoting ourselves and the fact that we are willing to work with other communities that we share," Tiger said.

President and CEO of Tulsa Expo Square Mark Andrus, said the MCN fit what the facility was looking for in a partner.

"We wanted to look for partners who represented excellence, honesty integrity and good fortune for all of Tulsa… They [MCN] represent economic development wherever it might be found in this area and that's best represented by good, solid businesses, employment and education," Andrus said.



MNN/Gary Fife

The Muscogee (Creek) National Council approved a business plan for Internet gaming, permanently approved funding for community and church Christmas activities and heard a budget report from Principal Chief George Tiger during the quarterly session Oct. 27.

OCTOBER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

• TR 12-149 supporting the MCN Transit Program's submission of an Oklahoma Department of Human Services section 5310 capital assistance vehicle application. Sponsored by Rep. Mark Randolph. Passed 14—0.

• TR 12-150 approving a memorandum of agreement for Indian Health Service Project OK 11-S28 and authorizing the principal chief to execute an exchange letter amendment. Sponsored by Randolph. Passed 14—0.

• TR 12-151 authorizing the Gaming Operations and Authority Board to execute a contract with Claude Neon Federal Signs for the installation of an LED video display for the River Spirit Casino. Sponsored by Rep. Robert Hufft. Passed 14—0.

• TR 12-153 approving use of facilities at OSU-Okmulgee campus. Sponsored by Rep. Pete Beaver. Passed 14—0.

• TR 12-155 confirming the nomination of Jerry Wilson to serve as tribal administrator for the MCN. Sponsored by Rep. Shirlene Ade. Passed, 9-5 with Reps. Beaver, Coachman, Hill, Jones and Proctor voting against. A two-thirds majority vote was not required.

• TR 12-156 confirming the nomination of Jerry McPeak as tax commissioner of the MCN. Sponsored by David Hill. Passed 14—0.

• TR 12-157 confirming the nomination of Brad Fox as Secretary of the MCN Division of Housing. Sponsored by Rep. Johnnie Greene. Passed 14—0.

• NCA 12-204 authorizing a donation of $500 to the Jim Lucas Checotah Public Library. Sponsored by David Proctor with co-sponsors Beaver, Greene, and Thomas. Passed 14—0.

• NCA 12-205 authorizing a special appropriation of $50,000 to the MCN communities for the purpose of enhancing and enriching Christmas activities for citizens. Sponsored by Ade, with co-sponsors Thomas and Wind. Amended by Ade to include the word "annually." Passed 14—0.

• NCA 12- 207 authorizing a special appropriation of $30,000 to MCN churches to assist with providing Christmas to Creek families. Sponsored and amended by Ade to include the word "annually". Passed 14—0.

• NCA 12-208 authorizing a special appropriation of $4,800 to 16 Muscogee (Creek) ceremonial grounds to assist with providing Christmas to Creek families. Sponsored by Ade. Passed: 13—0 with Yahola abstaining.

• NCA 12-209 authorizing a $50,000 donation to Mason Public Schools. Sponsored by Coachman with co-sponsors Thomas and Wind. Approved 14—0.

• NCA 12-210 amending NCA 11-04 appropriating funds to Twin Hills Indian Community. Sponsored by Rep. Keeper Johnson. Passed 14—0.

• NCA 12-212 authorizing the principal chief to make a $43,306 purchase of a Glaval bus for the Koweta Indian Community. Sponsored by Randolph with co-sponsors Beaver, Greene, Johnson and Thomas. Passed 14—0.

• NCA 12-214 authorizing a supplemental appropriation of $234,949 to the MCN Citizenship Board Office's fiscal year 2013 budget. Sponsored by Rep. Pearl Thomas. Passed 14—0.

• NCA 12-215 authorizing a $30,000 donation to the Bedouin Shrine. Sponsored by Rep. Adam Jones III. Passed 14—0.

• NCA 12-216 authorizing the expenditure of $839,00 in funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration, for implementation of Project Launch by the MCN department of Behavioral Health Services. Sponsored by Thomas. Passed 14—0.

• NCA 12-217 authorizing a special appropriation of $50,000 to the Indian Fellowship Baptist church. Sponsored by Hufft. Passed 14—0.

• NCA 12-218 authorizing an additional $600,000 to the MCN Attorney General FY2013 budget for the Citizen Legal Services Department. Sponsored by Greene. Passed 14—0.

• NCA 12-221 authorizing a supplemental appropriation of $75,750 the MCN Senior Services program to participate in the "Mvskoke Etvlwv" Muscogee (Creek) festival at the National Museum of the American Indian. Sponsored by Ade. Passed 14—0.

• NCA 12-222 Authorizing a $14,022 donation to Butner Public Schools. Sponsored by Wind. Passed 14-0.

Reps. Kara Medina and David Nichols were absent.

'Mvskoke Etvlwv' Festival celebrates Mvskoke culture

The event will take place Nov. 15-17 at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian

Media Release
Mvskoke Media

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation culture, tribal government and veterans will be celebrated at a three-day festival Nov. 15-17 at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian in recognition of American Indian Heritage Month and Veterans Day.

More than 100 MCN representatives will be traveling to Washington, D.C., to present all aspects of the tribe at the 'Mvskoke Etvlwv' or Muscogee People festival. The participants include tribal officials – including Principal Chief George Tiger and Second Chief Roger Barnett – and National Council representatives.

The cultural presentations will include stompdance demonstrations, Creek hymnal singing, artisans, crafters and informational booths about the tribal government.

"We're really proud and excited to have the Muscogee (Creek) Nation as part of this event," said event co-coordinator and MCN Museum & Cultural Center Director John Beaver. "There are going to be a lot of people there that are going to actually see and learn what the Creek Nation is about. We're excited because this is an opportunity where we're going to present Creek history and culture."

Event co-coordinator and MCN Museum & Cultural Center Assistant Director Justin Bruce Giles said the Museum & Cultural Center is working in collaboration with the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian to bring the Muscogee culture to Washington, D.C., which will be essentially showcasing the tribe on a national and international level.

"We're excited to be a part of that international scene in D.C.," Giles said. "We're bringing who we are to Washington, D.C., and to be a part of the world stage that the Smithsonian presents to the public. It's about honoring, showcasing and celebrating our Muscogee culture, traditions and heritage as well as our tribal government and veterans."

The tribe will be taking 60 citizens to the festival, as well as members of the Mvskoke Nation Honor Guard who will post and retire the colors each day of the event.

"It's important that they bring us in right and close us out right too," Giles said. "We're excited to have them as part of the festival in recognition of Veterans Day."

MCN departments traveling to Washington, D.C., to represent the tribe include Tourism & Recreation, Citizenship, JOM, Environmental Services, Housing Division, Community Research & Development and the Division of Health. The departments will have informational booths set up to visit with museum visitors from all over the world.

"This is going to be an example of what we're working on here at the Muscogee Nation in terms of our museum project that we're involved with," Giles said. "Our museum project here at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation will sponsor these types of events. This is a preview, just a taste of what we'll be having here at the Creek Nation."

Smithsonian
National Museum of the American Indian

PINK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In January 2004, she began receiving treatments and like many chemotherapy patients, lost her hair during the process.

"When I had my head shaved and started wearing the wigs, that, as often is the case, is the hardest part of this journey . . . The scars you can cover and if you have to have a mastectomy, you can get a prosthesis or do reconstruction but when you lose your hair, and your eyebrows thins and your eyelashes fall out, it's the outward sign that you're sick," she said.

After shaving her head, she explored the comprehensive world of wigs and used her new hair to create a unique dialogue between herself and others about breast cancer.

"It allowed them to ask me questions about what I was going through . . .by wearing these wigs, it allowed me to actually share with people what my journey was like," she said.

She shared a few of the wigs she wore during the time of her treatment with the Pink Party audience.

"I decided to make my journey an adventure, more so, through the wigs . . . something that I really laughed about," she said.

Taylor suggested asking a professional for help in styling some of the hairpieces.

"Not all wigs are created equal… mine looked more like a beaver had just positioned itself on my head," Taylor said.

She reminded the audience that it isn't the challenges faced, but the way they are dealt with, which defines an individual.

"We all have challenges in our life; how you get through that – how you look at it, makes a big difference. It builds character. It shows your faith in God. It really tells you who you are," she said.

According to Taylor, a few keys to fighting breast cancer include early detection through self-exams, attending annual wellness checks and, for women over the age of 40, yearly mammograms.

"85 percent of women diagnosed with breast cancer have no family history . . . If you are a woman and you have breasts, you are at risk," she said.

After the speakers, survivors and attendees visited informational booths for health information and released balloons to conclude the event.

College of the Muscogee Nation receives suicide prevention grant

MNN/Gary Fife

College of the Muscogee Nation President Robert Bible received a $24,000 donation from Daley Tearl, Clinical Director for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Behavioral Health Program, Oct. 30.

Donation aims to supplement funding for suicide prevention on CMN campus

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) and the College of the Muscogee Nation (CMN) are teaming up to prevent incidents of suicide among Creek students.

The MCN Behavioral and Mental Health program presented the CMN with a $24,000 donation Oct. 30, to the school's student supervisory program to develop a prevention program.

The program conducts a prevention program at the college and Monte Randall, Dean of Student Affairs said it is a "QPR—Question, Persuade and Refer" training regime and a crisis management plan. With the new addition to student housing to the campus, Randall said CMN wanted to raise awareness.

"We just want to be prepared for the situation. We have residents here on campus now. We have 64 students in residence units here on campus, so we just always want to be prepared for that issue if the need arises."

Diana Powell, resident manager for student housing at the CMN called the effort a 'preventive measure,' "We just want to make sure that we are equipped to take care of the student should we happen to come across the situation like that."

Combatting youth suicide is a major topic across Native America. To date, CMN staff have not encountered any suicide attempts or fatalities. However, they do not discount the possibility of something unexpected occurring. Randall said, "We have had some concerns here. Luckily, we've had the training. We've been able to counsel our students, and then refer them to behavioral health. We're not the experts in that area. This training is designed to give use some tools to prevent, but also to refer them to Behavioral Health."

Powell confirmed that record but pointed out there have been cases of depression, "On an individual basis, we haven't had any suicide attempts or anything of that nature. But, we do deal with students on a day-to-day basis and, you know, depression can come upon anybody and it comes suddenly. We just wanted to be in the preventative mode where we can be there for the student and get the referral they need before we get to a place that it would be suicide."

CMN will use the donation for additional staff training, printed materials and other resources, like public outreach to raise awareness for students and the public on the subject of suicide prevention.

The small size of the CMN student body has enabled staff members to know the students on a more personal level and Randall said it gave them an 'edge' in recognizing changes in behavior.

Powell called it an advantage, "We're really family oriented here because we're small enough that we see each other every day. We have interaction with each other every day, so it puts us at an advantage that we can see our students when they do come to a problem area in their life. We can act quickly and get the referrals they need to take care of them in the mental health area."

Thomasine Fife is manager for the tribe's "Guarding the Future: Suicide Prevention Project." She said their department made the donation to supplement the ongoing efforts, "We're making this donation to the college to insure that the student body here is educated and aware of suicide prevention efforts. This age [student age] is three times at risk than any other age groups. We want to be available for these students."

Fife pointed to adding 'protective factors' to their educational process, "Promoting good mental health, substance abuse education—those are protective factors. That's also something we're working to provide here."

'Fast Track' available at Creek Nation Community Hospital in Okemah

Media Release
MCN Division of Health

OKEMAH — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Health has implemented 'Fast Track' at the Creek Nation Community Hospital in Okemah as of Nov. 5, 2012.

'Fast Track' is an extension of the emergency department developed as an effort to decrease patient wait time for those who require lower acuity care such as treatment for an ear infection, a rash and/ or a sore throat.

'Fast Track' is not intended to replace a primary care provider. Instead, it is an option when illness or injury strikes outside of a provider's regular clinic hours.

Dedicated to serving as an extension of the hospital's emergency department, 'Fast Track,' will provide care on a walk-in basis in a clinic setting.

Typical care provided by the 'Fast Track' provider includes an injury or illness that requires immediate treatment but is not serious enough to warrant a visit to an emergency department.

Upon arrival to the Creek Nation Community Hospital to seek care, patients must register in the main lobby at the front of the hospital. Once registered, the triage nurse will screen patients utilizing specific criteria to determine if the illness or injury warrants care in the Emergency Room or 'Fast Track.'

Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 3–11 p.m. The Creek Nation Community Hospital 'Fast Track' is located at 903 North 14th in Okemah, Okla.

For more information, contact Judy Aaron or Sheryl Sharber-Howell at 918-623-1424 or toll free at 1-800-219-9458.

Free mental screenings performed during suicide prevention month

Media Release
MCN Behavioral Health

OKMULGEE — In recognition of National Depression Awareness Month, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Behavioral Health and other community partners provided free mental health screenings at various locations throughout the month of October, including MCN Indian Health Centers in Eufaula, Koweta, Okemah, Okmulgee, Sapulpa, and Wetumka.

Depression is a serious illness that affects about 19 million people from every walk of life in the U.S. each year.

Everyone feels sad sometimes but these feelings usually pass after a few days. With depression, people may have trouble with daily life for weeks at a time. Several factors may contribute to depression. It can be genetic, so those with a family history of depression may be more likely to experience symptoms. Some people with depression may also have different brain chemistry than those without the illness. Depression can be triggered by stress; such as loss of a loved one, relationship problems, or any other stressful situations.

There are several forms of depression and it affects people in different ways. Depression isn't always easy to spot. Some people experience behavior changes, while some have mainly emotional changes.

Some warning signs of depression may include: feeling persistently sad, anxious, or irritable; loss of interest in previously enjoyed activities; withdrawal from family and friends, sleeping too little or too much; decreased energy; significant changes in weight and/ or appetite; difficulty concentrating or making decisions; feelings of worthlessness, hopelessness, or guilt; physical problems such headaches, digestive problems, or chronic pain; substance abuse problems; thoughts of suicide or suicide attempts.

The good news is that depression is treatable. Symptoms are usually treated with a combination of therapy and medication. If left untreated, depression can last for months, or even years.

People who are depressed commonly think about suicide, which is the eighth leading cause of death for all Native Americans and the second leading cause of death for Native Americans ages 10 to 34.

Individuals worried that a loved one may be depressed or suicidal should seek help immediately.

For more information about depression or mental health screenings, contact MCN Behavioral Health at 1-888-756-4333 or the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK.

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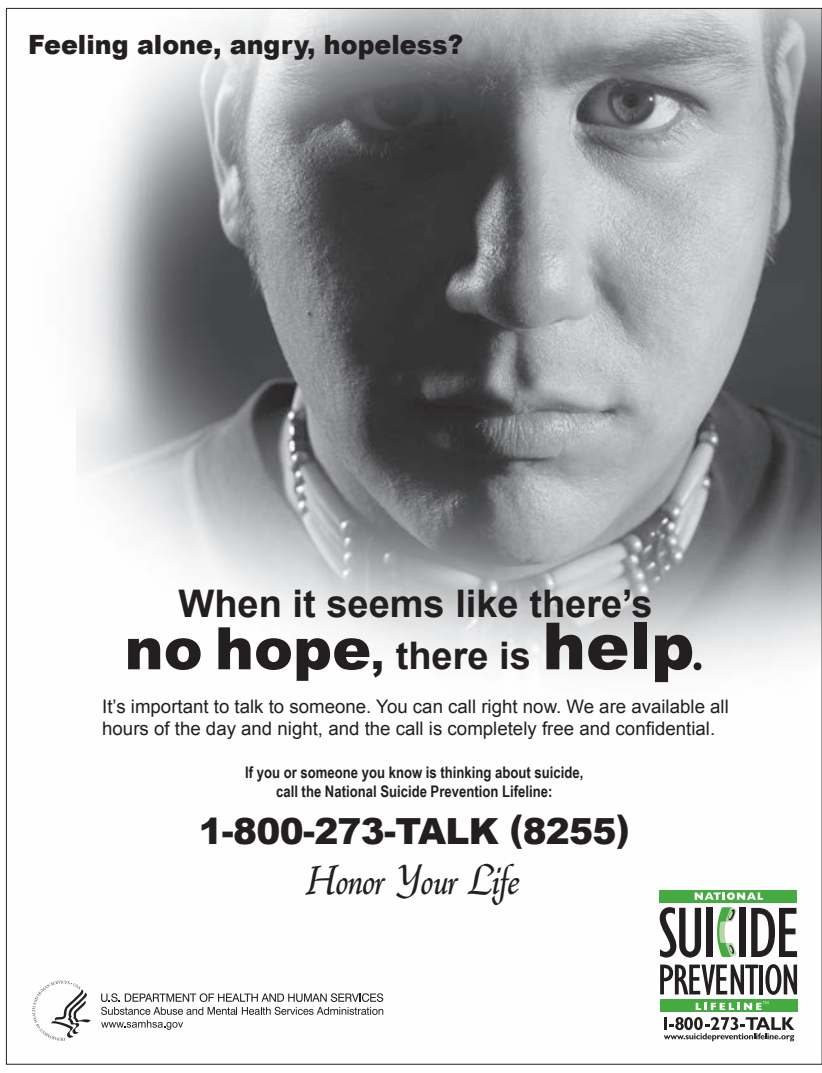
Feeling alone, angry, hopeless?
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It's important to talk to someone. You can call right now. We are available all hours of the day and night, and the call is completely free and confidential.
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www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Citizens recognized during 2012 Dream Keepers Awards

MNN/Gerald Wofford

Pictured left to right are: Darrell Wildcat, Nancie Warrior Longacre, Teresa Runnels and Justin Giles who were honored at the 15th annual Dream Keepers Awards ceremony in Tulsa Nov. 6. Wildcat accepted the award on behalf of his parents, the late Jimmy and Eunice Wildcat.

15th annual event acknowledges accomplishments of Native Americans during Native Heritage Month

Gerald Wofford
MNN Feature Writer

TULSA — The Greater Tulsa Area Indian Affairs Commission honored 12 Native Americans Nov. 6 at their 15th annual Dream Keepers Awards banquet at the University of Oklahoma's Schusterman Center in Tulsa. Three Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizens were recipients including Teresa Runnels, Nancie Warrior Longacre, and Justin Giles.

Jimmy and Eunice Wildcat of the Euchee (Yuchi) tribe were honored posthumously.

"It is very humbling to be honored like this," said Teresa Runnels who received the Perry Aunko Indigenous Language Preservation award.

Runnels was instrumental in creating the American Indian Resource Center at the Tulsa City - County Library amongst many other projects.

Longacre was given the Jim Thorpe Sports Excellence Award for her athletic achievements, which include the title of 2002 Native American Martial Arts Association World Champion.

Giles received the Moscelyne Larkin Cultural Award for his work with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Museum and his work with Native American youth involved in the game of lacrosse.

The Wildcats were given the Kenneth Anquoe Lifetime Achievement Award for their cultural contributions, which include Jimmy's Tulsa Mayor's Art Award and Eunice's Outstanding Indian Woman of the Year award in 1982. Their son, Darrell, accepted the award.

Longacre shared the same sentiment as Runnels and couldn't believe she was given an award that bears the name of one of the most noted Native American athletes of all time. Giles appreciated the magnitude of the award and realized he was the youngest on the esteemed list to be honored that evening.

Each award was named in honor of a Native American that excelled or contributed to Native American life. The event coincides with National

Native American Heritage Month, which celebrates and recognizes the accomplishments of Native peoples.

Other recipients included James Ryals for the Lewis B. Ketchum Excellence in Business Award, Cara Cowan Watts for the Charles Chibitty Family Community Contributor Award, Curtis Zuniga for the Will Anquoe Humanitarian Award, Raymond Rogers received the Rennard Stricland Education Leadership Award, Patty Beaston for the Dr. Ralph Dru Career and Professional Award, Charles Diebold for the Red Sacred Circle of Spirituality Award, and Richard Tilden for the Roberta Gardipe American Indian Veterans Award.

First Riverwalk Crossing tenant happy with location

Jesse Markham explains why he chose to lease an office at Riverwalk

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

MNN/Sterling Cosper

Pictured is Jesse Markham, General Manager of the Tulsa area for Electrical Consultants Inc., the first tenant signed to the Jenks Riverwalk since the Muscogee (Creek) Nation purchased the development earlier this year.

JENKS — Jesse Markham, General Manager of the Tulsa area for Electrical Consultants Inc. (ECI) the first tenant signed to the Jenks Riverwalk Crossing since the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) purchased it April 17, began operating his business out of the development Oct. 1.

ECI is an engineering design firm that commonly serves as a subcontractor consulting to power utility companies like the Oklahoma Gas and Electric Corporation (OGE) and American Electrical Power (AEP), helping these companies with the electrical engineering of their projects.

Markham's office recently secured a contract with AEP for 11 different projects and is looking to hire more help to fulfill this contract. According to Markham the forthcoming expansion of his business made him decide to move it to the Riverwalk.

"We thought that the Riverwalk would be a good fit. It's close by and I live in Jenks. It's attractive for clients too; you can walk to Los Cabos or any of the other things around here," Markham said.

The Tulsa branch of ECI was previously located at the River Plaza in Jenks and is now located in an office space within one of two buildings North of the main development at the Riverwalk.

Kim Partin with Merit Properties, who is property manager of the Riverwalk, worked with Markham to tailor the office space to his needs.

"Kim has been a really good person to work with. When I started looking at this place, there was no paint on the wall and no flooring; so Kim and I did a lot of that together and it's been a good process," Markham said.

Markham is also happy to be a tenant at the Riverwalk, now that it is owned by the MCN.

"We feel like the Creek Nation provides stability to the Riverwalk development. When Vision II passes in Tulsa we're going to have more water in the river and they'll be more development here," he said.

Learning the language, regaining culture: Weeks 7-8

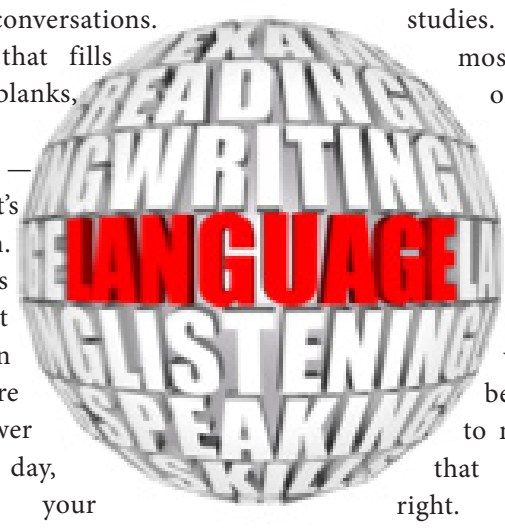
Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — WEEK 7: Yay! I got 100 percent on my alphabet test.

I must admit that it was one of those easy 'cross-out-the-wrong-letters tests,' though. I eliminated those letters that weren't included in the Mvskoke alphabet. Felt good, too. The letters finally came easily and it gave me a nice feeling of confidence when making my choices.

Daria Hicks is teaching us now with a combination of hand-outs and informal discussion of words and phrases. She's making our lessons more conversational, mixing materials from her hand-outs with common useful phrases and words we will encounter in conversations. For me, that fills in some blanks, nicely.

Yvhv—wolf. That's my clan. That was the first question we were to answer for the day, —'what's your clan.' Students were answering well and we heard the names of each other's clans.



The seasons of the year were next; spring—ta-sahce; summer—mes-ke; fall—rv-fo-Ha-ke; winter—rv-fo. Then came some words that convey significant meanings: celauwete—Are you hungry? ehe—yes. Other one word phrases: hecis—I am seeing; hompis—I am eating; hv-tec ce—Wait!

The lessons are getting a little more complicated, but our progress is moving along at a comfortable pace. That is really important. It gives us a chance to pick up this new knowledge at rate that doesn't overwhelm us. I hope I'm getting these words and phrases correct. I'm going to feel really silly if they aren't. Maybe some elders are getting a grin from my measly attempts. That's OK.

I've been trying to use this little bit of language when I speak with some elders. Some smile in recognition, some grin with amusement and I must admit a couple look at me with confusion. I just know my pronunciation gets mixed up occasionally but it beats not trying.

I found an old Creek hymnal among my late mother's things. I'm anxious to bring it in for our mvhayv—teacher, to look at and see if there are any songs that I remembering hearing in English and in Creek as a child. It would be wonderful to learn them in Creek and be able to read them, too.

Here mahe—I'm doing fine.

WEEK 8: Our studies are progressing along with additional focus on two and three letter sounds and how they combine into words and sometimes, phrases. There's still a great mass of vocabulary to learn, so some confusion remains on what they mean, or don't mean.

Our reviews include pronunciation done in slow and faster fashions. The slow ones to learn the correct sound and faster ones for the way they are used in normal Creek conversation. For me, this has been bearing results. I can look at our lesson materials and begin to recognize these combinations more quickly and more accurately pronounce them. It feels like I'm getting the 'flow' of the words and sounds more comfortably. We were asked to read phrases to ask for the month, date, week, greeting, name and clan. It was a good practical application of our studies. I think most everyone got through it OK. I listened carefully to everyone who went before me, to make sure that I got it right.

We have begun exercises that look at three letter combinations. There were three—(tutcenen) sections. The first two—(hokkelen) were the usual repetition. It was the last section that got tricky. Instead of starting with the same letter like the others, these began with different letters that challenged our memories and tongues to make the changes and keep up with our mvhayv—teacher. I think we all did pretty well. That's a welcome sign of progress.

On a side note, I wanted to know the Creek name for skunk. Nake estowin—why? Because I had one in my front yard when I went to set up for a yard sale one morning not too long ago. Kunu—skunk. Monks!—no. Fvmpe!—stinky! That last word I remembered from my childhood and when my efv—dog tangled with two of them. Anyway, I thought: That's the last thing I need for a good yard sale—kunu.

I ran in to a classmate at the MCN Fall Festival and we were able to exchange proper greetings. That really felt like an accomplishment, I think for both of us. For fun, we even counted to ten. Imagine that? Being happy I could count to ten would not have occurred to me just eight weeks ago.

Lastly, I brought in my mother's Creek hymnal and Hicks recognized song after song. She sang some melodies that really brought back some memories. I asked if there was a Creek version of a song my mom sang that I loved, "One Drop of Blood." Yes, and when Hicks sang a bit, I was thinking, 'I know this' and I instantly recognized it and joined in the chorus.

That was really relearning the culture for me. Hvtvm Cehecare.

Dynamic duo leading Chieftains to undefeated season

Creek citizens Moore and Williams keep the losses away from Wetumka football

Darren DeLaune
MNN Sports Reporter

WETUMKA – A dynamic duo out of Wetumka, Okla., are turning heads and gaining a following at the same time.

Senior running back Derrick Moore and junior quarterback Chase Williams are helping the number-two Wetumka Chieftains to an undefeated season and a potentially deep playoff run for the 2012 football season.

"The season is going real well," Williams said. "We are undefeated right now and we hope to stay that way."

"We have two more games left in the season before the playoffs," Moore said. "Two games that, if we play our best, we can win."

Wetumka played 11-man football during the early 2000s up to 2008 when they changed to an eight-man structure.

The Chieftain tandem has always had love for the sport, with Moore playing football for eight years and Williams for nine.

"I love the atmosphere," Moore said. "We play off the fans cheering for us."

I love everything about this sport," added Williams. "The physical play and what Derrick said, the fans cheering for us."

MNN/Darren DeLaune
Pictured left to right are Muscogee (Creek) citizens Derrick Moore and Chase Williams who are leading the Wetumka Chieftains to an undefeated season so far in 2012.

Going into this year, the Chieftains' season has been a whirlwind with a majority of the games ending with the 45-point mercy ruling. At the time of press, Moore had 27 touchdowns for the season with Williams owning 30 — 11 of which came in a single victory against Bowlegs.

"It is tough," said Williams. "We have to get our schoolwork done or we cannot play. It is hard sometimes but we do get it done."

Coach Waymon Potts has nothing but great things to say about his two offensive threats.

"Both of these men are exceptional athletes," said Potts. "They are great people and have great character. They compliment each other on the field. They are both strong athletes and are tough to bring down and get tackled. Derrick can run and catch the ball on offense. On defense, he likes to hit and can make the tackle. Chase has stepped up real well this season. We can line him up at quarterback, running back, or wide receiver."

The duo keeps opposing teams on edge.

"Teams know they have to try and stop both Derrick and Chase," said Potts. "They cannot only focus on one, because the other one will have a great game."

While both Moore and Williams have had a great season for their statistics, those two, along with Coach Potts know that they could not do it alone. They know that this sport is a team sport and everyone on the field contributes to the success for this season.

"We have a great team this season," said Potts. "Both our offensive and defensive lines are very good this year. If it wasn't for our offensive line, Derrick and Chase would not have the games that they have." Everyone contributes on this team in some way. We have several players that are playing injured but they still give us everything they have when they are on that field.

Coach Potts also contributes the team's success to the offseason weight lifting program.

"We have a weight lifting program that our boys do when not in football," said Potts. "Not only is it high school but also our junior high who show up and want to get better and stronger too. They look up to the varsity like Derrick and Chase and know what they have to do to get better to help our football teams. Another great thing is that some of our boys on the weight lifting team have received a lot of rewards in competitions. That shows that we push and compliment each other both on and off the field."

The Chieftains are currently undefeated and soon hope to accomplish another goal of lifting the state championship trophy above their heads in celebration in a few weeks.

Moore (Creek) is the son of Maurice and Angie (Yahola) Sleet and Marcus Moore. His clan is Hotvle (Wind).

Williams (Creek) is the son of Eddie and Lori Williams.

Native artists display works in Jenks and Kellyville

Gerald Wofford
MNN Feature Writer

JENKS — The blue skies of Oct. 27 were the setting for the first Native Made Art Festival at the Riverwalk Crossing in Jenks and the Yuchi Heritage Festival in Kellyville. Both events saw hundreds of visitors from all over the region and state.

"I am so proud the Creek Nation decided to put this on," said Diana Beaver of Twin Hills.

Beaver and her husband, Harry, displayed and sold their artwork near the banks of the Arkansas River along with many other artists. The Beavers create turbans as well as shell carvings, necklaces and paintings.

"We usually have to travel a long distance just to sell our works, but it's nice to have a place here that is so close to home," said Beaver.

Native American artists were encouraged to bring and sell their work without the expense of booth and set up fees, which is required by many art festival policies. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tourism and Recreation Department created the event.

"We're glad we could bring all these artists together and allow people here to see it as well," said William Lowe, MCN Tourism and Recreation Director.

MNN/Gerald Wofford
Pictured at top are visitors at the first Native Made Art Festival at the Riverwalk Crossing in Jenks. At left are vendors Diana and Harry Beaver.

In addition to the Beavers, other Native artists also took advantage of the opportunity to showcase their work, including Bill McCulley, Jon Tiger, Paula Willits, and Barbara West.

Just a little further south, the Yuchis were gathered together to celebrate their annual heritage festival held at the Creek County fairgrounds along Route 66 near Kellyville.

The two-day event began Oct. 26 with a traditional meal.

"Well, I didn't get the chicken and dumplings like I wanted, but I did get in on the corn soup," laughed Yuchi tribal member Larry Grounds.

Other activities included Yuchi children singing and performing skits in the Yuchi language, arts and crafts, gospel singing, a horseshoe tournament and the annual social stompdance Oct. 27.

Creek/Choctaw pair takes first in Special Olympics golf

Darren DeLaune
MNN Sports Reporter

OKLAHOMA CITY — Richard Belcher got a late start in the golfing game where he started playing at the age of 39. Along with his student, Terry Sullivan, the pair is turning heads across Oklahoma.

Belcher has been golfing for over 21 years. He started while in the Navy when he was based in Guam.

"I used to play tennis before I started golf," Belcher said. "One day, while serving in Guam, I was asked to play a game of golf and I never picked up my racket again. Honestly, I do not even know what happened to the racket."

Belcher trained Sullivan for the 2012 Special Olympics where they walked away with two first place victories in Oklahoma City at the James Stewart Golf Course Oct. 8 and in Tulsa at Mohawk Park Oct. 13.

In an 18-hole golf tournament handicapped players tee off on odd-numbered holes and trainers tee off on even-numbered holes. Both alternate and hit until they each sink the shot.

Both tournaments were tight but Sullivan and Belcher came out on top. In Oklahoma City, the duo won by over three strokes and in Tulsa, a single stroke separated their winning team from second place.

Sullivan, who has a history of seizures, has been golfing since he was three years old. Belcher has trained him for the last three months.

MNN/Darren DeLaune
Pictured left to right are Muscogee (Creek) coach Richard Belcher and Choctaw golfer Terry Sullivan (below). The pair took first during the 2012 Special Olympics golf tournament.

"Sullivan's father, Douglas, is the one that asked me to help train him," said Belcher. "When I train him (Sullivan), I work on his swing speed. He can already hit the ball a mile. We want more control when he tees off."

Sullivan feels that with the Special Olympics, the contestants have a better understanding and more respect for the game than some contestants do in regular golf tournaments.

"There is an oath we say before we play," said Sullivan. "The oath is, 'Let me win. If I cannot win, let me brave and attempt.' "

"Participants in the Special Olympics do enjoy the golf game a lot more," said Belcher. "When awards are handed out, it means more than money can buy. The smiles are golden."

"I love playing golf a lot," said Sullivan. "It is real fun and I get to make new friends at each event. Most of all, I get to play with my coach, Richard, and learn from him."

Although Belcher loves playing, what makes him happy about the game is teaching other people about golf.

"I love teaching golf," Belcher said. "I get to transfer knowledge and I get instant feedback. If we can get more people to come out and golf, we could get more of them to exercise and stay in great shape. I wish I played when I was a lot younger. Playing with Terry has been fun from the start. When he plays, it gives him a sense of accomplishment."

Although they play as a team in the Special Olympics, Belcher stresses that training is essential to be successful at this sport.

"Golf, more or less is an individual game." Belcher said. "What you get out of it is what you put in. You have to practice and keep practicing."

Belcher is Creek and his clan is Fuswv (Bird). His parents are the late Jack and Edna Belcher.

Sullivan is Choctaw.

Muscogee author wins silver at IRMA awards

Media Release
Oklahoma Today

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Muscogee (Creek) National tribal member Eddie Chuculate won silver in the International Regional Magazine Association's annual awards on Oct. 1 in the essay category for his essay on Hillabee Indian Baptist Church in Hanna.

The essay, "Red Moon Rising," appeared in the May/June 2011 issue, and featured longtime Creek Indian Baptist preacher Austin Barnett, now deceased.

"We're thrilled," said Joan Henderson, *Oklahoma Today* publisher. "The IRMA publications are outstanding, so winning in this environment is a real feather in our cap."

Chuculate is a former contributor to the *Muscogee Nation News* and sports editor at the *Okmulgee (Okla.) Daily Times*. He also worked at the *Muskogee Phoenix*, *Tulsa World*, *Pryor Daily Times* and *Daily Ardmoreite*, where the longtime sportswriter covered the Dallas Cowboys.

He's also the author of a collection of short stories titled "Cheyenne Madonna."

Judges described Chuculate's writing as "resonant," "insightful, and vivid." They had similarly enthusiastic comments about the publication as a whole.

Chuculate is the grandson of the late Maxine (Narcomey) Flanary, and great-grandson of fullblood Creeks Francis (Lewis) Narcomey and the Rev. Raymond Narcomey, both deceased.

In addition to Chuculate's award, *Oklahoma Today* won Magazine of the Year honors for publications with circulation of up to 40,000. It also received gold honors for Overall Art Direction and Steffie Corcoran's editor[1]s letter column.

"Disparate cover topics (country music, Indian history, survivor trees) reflect the Sooner State's amazing diversity," said contest judge Steve Fennessy, editor of Atlanta magazine. "A great advertisement for Oklahoma."

"Collaboration is essential to all strong editorial content," said Corcoran. "A huge amount of the credit for these awards is due to the hard work of our editors, freelance writers and photographers, and our longtime art director, Steven Walker. It's very gratifying to be recognized for sharing something so important to all of us, love of home."

The International Regional Magazine Association (IRMA), founded in 1960, exists to facilitate communication and exchange of ideas between regional publishers throughout the world. Henderson serves as a member of the IRMA Board of Directors, and Oklahoma Today hosted the annual conference in Oklahoma City and Lone Wolf in 2007.

Oklahoma Today, the Magazine of Oklahoma since 1956, focuses on the people, places, and culture of Oklahoma. A paid-circulation magazine, it has subscribers in every state and many foreign countries. It is published bimonthly by the Oklahoma Tourism & Recreation Department.

For more information, visit www.oklahomatoday.com.

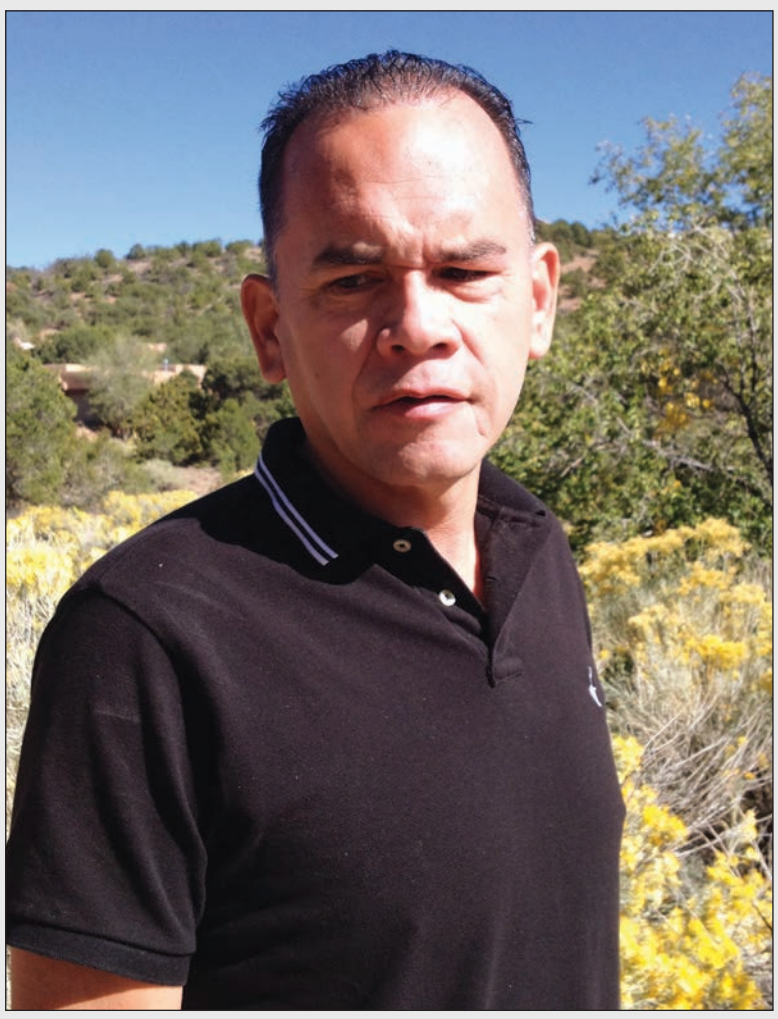


Photo provided/Eddie Chuculate
MCN citizen and author Eddie Chuculate won silver in the International Regional Magazine Association's annual awards Oct. 1 in the essay category for his essay on Hillabee Indian Baptist Church in Hanna.

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In the State of Oklahoma, there are Muscogee Creek Children in state and tribal custody looking for a place to call "cuko" (home).
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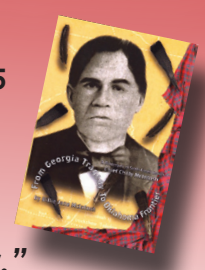
For more information contact: Tammi Reed-Barnett
at (918)732-7883 OR email: tammirb@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

From Georgia Tragedy to Oklahoma Frontier
A Biography of Scots Creek Indian Chief Chilly McIntosh
by Muscogee (Creek) author Billie Jane McIntosh

- Chilly McIntosh Family
- Photos, maps and documents
- Muscogee Creek tribal history 1800-1875
  - Alabama
  - Georgia
  - Indian Territory



"Best overview and description of the murder of William McIntosh, Jr."
-Dr. Gary L. McIntosh, Calif.

To purchase through American History Press call 888-521-1789 or for a signed copy, include $19 plus $3 postage to: Billie Jane McIntosh, 2315 W. Trail Blazer Dr., Cottonwood, AZ 86326 or call 928-649-9797.

Community Calendar November 2012

MCN Reintegration Program to host 4th annual Holiday Toy Drive

HENRYETTA — The MCN Reintegration Program (RIP) is having its 4th annual Holiday Toy Drive to ensure that children with incarcerated family members have gifts for the holidays.

For more information, including drop off sites call 918-652-2676.

MCN Tribal Driveways Program accepting applications

OKMULGEE — The Tribal Driveways Program is accepting applications for repair of accessible driveways for property owners who reside within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation boundaries. Applicant must be enrolled with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation tribe.

Organization applications are also available for Muscogee (Creek) Nation ceremonial grounds, tribal towns, community centers, churches and when needed, family cemeteries that are within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation boundaries.

For more information or to request an application call 918-732-7651 or 1-800-482-1979.

Nunu Hesakat Fellowship to host chili supper Nov. 17

GLENPOOL — Nunu Hesakat Fellowship is hosting a chili supper Nov. 17 from 4:30-7:30 p.m., at 14401 S. Elwood in Glenpool.

The supper will cost $6 per person and includes chili, fry bread, drink and dessert.

Homemade pies available for holiday purchase

OKEMAH — Mvskoke elder Carol Tiger is selling a variety of homemade pies for the holidays.

All pies except pecan are $7 a piece including order and delivery. Pecan Pies are $9 and cobblers are $10.

For more information call Tiger at 918-716-8267.

Native American Christmas Market to be held at Sapulpa

SAPULPA — The second annual Native American Christmas Market is being held Nov. 24 from 11 a.m.-6 p.m., at the Sapulpa Elks Lodge at 24 S. Poplar in Sapulpa.

Spaces for artists displays are $25 and guest admission is $7.

Both include an Indian taco and tea. Featured artists will be Dana Tiger and Tom Barnett.

For more information contact Tricia Alexander at 918-852-0017.

MCN Cultural Preservation to host informational presentation Dec. 8

OKMULGEE — The MCN Historic and Cultural Preservation Department is hosting an informational presentation Dec. 8 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., at the MCN Okmulgee Elderly Nutrition Center.

There will be refreshments, door prizes and hot lunch will be served. RSVPs are requested.

For more information, call 918-732-7733.

Twin Hills to host grocery bingo Dec. 1

TWIN HILLS — The Twin Hills Indian Community is hosting a grocery bingo Dec. 1.

Concession will open at 12 p.m., and bingo will follow at 1 p.m.

For more information call 918-527-5155.

12th annual New Years Eve Sobriety Pow-wow set for Dec. 31

TULSA — The Friends of Sobriety is hosting the 12th annual New Years Eve Sobriety Pow-wow Dec. 31 at 100 Civic Center in downtown Tulsa.

The event is free to the public. For more information contact Lorraine Bosin at 918-639-7999 or Karl Beaston at 918-832-1981.

Club to host Native American awareness assembly Nov. 27

WELEETKA — The Weleetka Public Schools Native American Club will host an assembly promoting Native American awareness for elementary students Nov. 27 at 2:30 p.m., at Weleetka High School.

OSU American Indian Alumni Society to meet Nov. 17

STILLWATER — The OSU American Indian Alumni Society is hosting a meeting Nov. 17 in the Barnes Conference Room located in the OSU ConocoPhillips Alumni Center on the OSU campus.

The meeting will begin three hours prior to the OSU vs. Texas Tech football game.

For more information call 405-744-8837.

REPORT SIGNS OF METH PRODUCTION

- chemical smells (like ether, ammonia, vinegar or solvents)
- empty containers of lye, acetone, denatured alcohol, drain cleaner, camp fuel, cold tablet boxes, and batteries
- red-stained coffee filters, glassware with rubber tubing attached, buckets of kitty litter, chemical stains on carpet, car seats, etc.
- homes with windows covered or blacked out
- propane burners, possibly stained with blue

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Montana State University Extension
Tribal Meth Education Training & Help Center

National Congress of American Indians

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Emoponayv

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — The big national choice is over. Time for 'Monday morning quarterbacking.'

After tons of cash was spent, harsh rhetoric tossed about and political lines drawn in the sand, we're just about where we started from as far as our governmental leadership is concerned.

U.S. President Barack Obama has been granted a second term as chief of all the Americans by a margin that most people had predicted would be small.

Congress remains the same with a Republican majority in the House and a Democratic majority in the Senate. Any Obama proposal sent to Congress will be met with the same challenges to passage that have been seen in the past four years.

National pundits say the Republican Party had counted on their usual support to carry them through. Combined with a conservative backlash against the current administration and Congress, they thought that would be enough to sweep them into office. These observers say that party had not taken into consideration the changes in the American population. Among other things, that is the growth of the minority vote, which includes us.

The National Congress of American Indians funneled money to local tribal groups to encourage Native America to vote. Stories around Indian Country showed local tribal efforts to get out the vote. These were non-partisan campaigns but a majority of native people have favored Democrats in the past.

I don't know if that changed much, but I'm not aware of anything that happened to make a difference there.

I'm sure there are those Native people who would argue with a statement that the GOP didn't make an appeal to Natives. However, I don't remember seeing pictures of too many minority people at the GOP rallies. Their national platform was kind of vague in presenting their intentions in regards to our peoples.

It would be hard, if not impossible, to come up with a number and say how Native Americans voted for the most part. However, Paul DeMain and News From Indian Country said that the tribal vote did make a difference in the local Wisconsin race that affected their reservation. I'm sure that could be shown again in how tribes like the Navajo or Lakotas voted in their elections. It would be interesting to find out how the Muscogee people voted.

The election dust is settling now and we will go on with our business.

With the president's re-election, there is a track record in place and action on issues of importance to Native America, so we don't have to start over educating a new administration. It remains to be seen how Native issues will fare in this second presidential term and on Capitol Hill.

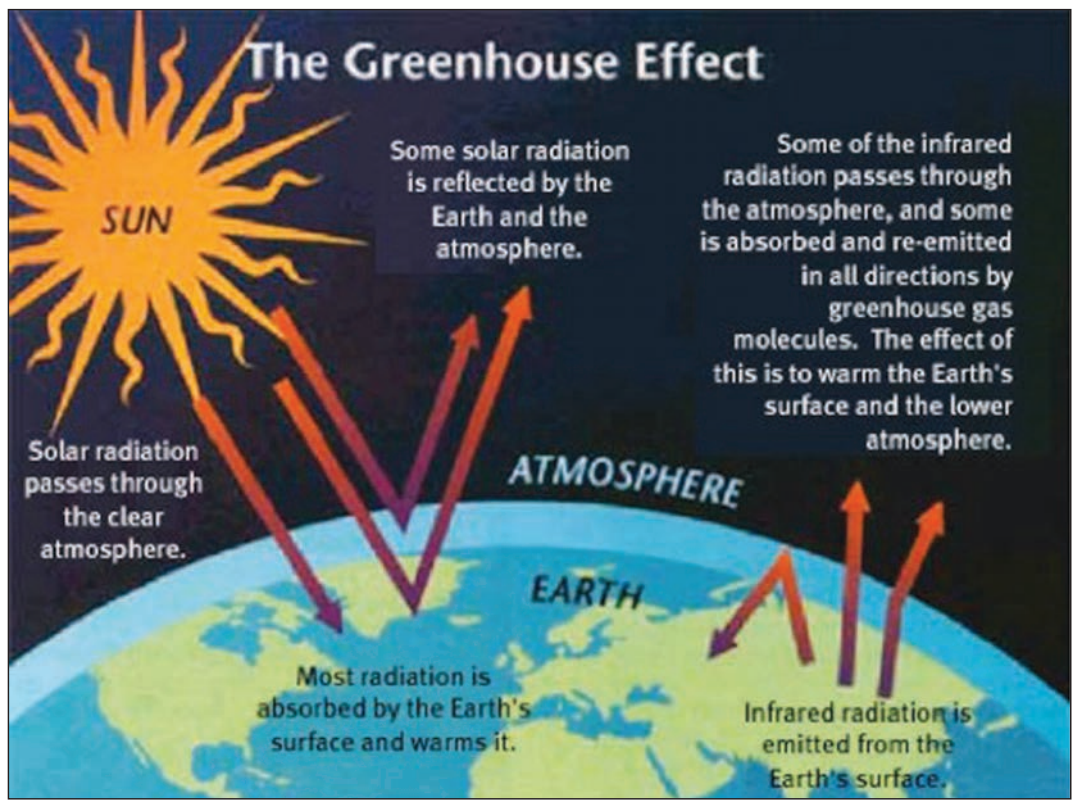
Let's hope that our governmental leaders can get over the vast divisions between them and find a way to work for the greater good of our nation.

The Green Corner: Greenhouse gases and the greenhouse effect

Yvette Wiley
MCN Environmental Services

OKMULGEE — Most people have heard or read about greenhouse gases. In fact, many could probably rattle off names of a few of these gases even if they may not fully understand what they are or how they function.

A greenhouse gas is simply a chemical compound that captures and stores heat. Perhaps some have heard the term, "heat trapping gases." Heat is one form of energy and Earth is heated as the sun radiates heat energy through the atmosphere to its surface. The atmosphere that surrounds Earth is filled with dozens of gases, some of which work to trap heat, These are know as heat trapping gases, or greenhouse gases (GHG). They are called greenhouse gases because the process works much like a greenhouse.


The Greenhouse Effect
SUN
Some solar radiation is reflected by the Earth and the atmosphere.
Some of the infrared radiation passes through the atmosphere, and some is absorbed and re-emitted in all directions by greenhouse gas molecules. The effect of this is to warm the Earth's surface and the lower atmosphere.
Solar radiation passes through the clear atmosphere.
ATMOSPHERE
EARTH
Most radiation is absorbed by the Earth's surface and warms it.
Infrared radiation is emitted from the Earth's surface.

Heat energy from the sun passes through the atmosphere down to Earth. About 70 percent of that energy is absorbed by the land, the ocean and by plants. The remaining 30 percent is reflected back to space by things like snow fields and clouds. The absorbed heat energy doesn't stay here forever or too much energy would build up and Earth would burn up. The Earth's surface needs a mechanism to cool itself, so this heat energy is eventually released and it radiates back to the Earth's atmosphere. Some of the heat passes through all of the layers of the atmosphere and goes on into space, but some of heat energy gets trapped in the atmosphere by gases, hence, 'heat trapping gases' or GHG. How does this happen?

The energy that comes directly from the sun is called relative shortwave energy. The heat energy that is radiated back from Earth's surface is longer-wave energy (infrared). Infrared is the form of energy that the atmospheric gases absorb and trap. If we didn't have the GHG in the atmosphere all the heat energy that came to the Earth would escape to outer space and the Earth would be too cold for life. There is a cycle that needs to stay within an optimal range for life on Earth to remain in balance. Too much or too little of one thing (a forcer) will tip the balance toward one direction or the other.

Some of the chemical compounds called GHG are: water vapor (H2O); carbon dioxide (CO2); methane (CH4); and nitrous oxide (N2O). These are naturally occurring GHG. There are other synthetic or man-made chemical compounds that work as GHG, however, the naturally occurring ones are listed here:

Water Vapor: Water vapor is the most abundant GHG. Earth's surface is covered by approximately 70 percent water. When the temperature rises, liquid water changes into its gaseous state and becomes water vapor. This is called evaporation. With the higher air temperature there is a higher absolute humidity (the air is holding more water) leading to more water vapor in the atmosphere.

Carbon Dioxide (CO2): This is an organic chemical compound as is all compounds that have a carbon attached. There is one carbon atom for every two oxygen atoms. One way CO2 is produced is by adding energy (burning) things that are carbon based; like coal, wood, methane, and petroleum. It is also exhaled by mammals as part of the respiratory process. Additionally, CO2 is emitted from volcanoes, hot springs, geysers, and other places where the Earth's crust is thin. We must have CO2 for life on Earth to exist. CO2 moves through the carbon cycle, and we need it in an appropriate amount for a balanced fluctuation within the carbon cycle. CO2 levels in the atmosphere are both naturally occurring and from anthropogenic (caused by humans) activities.

Methane (CH4): Methane is another organic chemical since it is carbon-based. Note there are four hydrogen atoms for every carbon atom. Methane is also produced from both natural processes and anthropogenic activities. CH4 is released from some types of wetlands, like peat bogs; from rice production; and from biological processes that occur in low oxygen environments such as fermentation. CH4 is 20 times more potent than CO2, but much of it has been locked beneath the Earth surface or beneath bedrock and permafrost.

Nitrous Oxide (N2O): Natural emissions of nitrous oxide occur from bacterial breakdown of nitrogen in soil and the Earth's oceans. It also occurs from fossil fuel combustion; agricultural practices such as using nitrogen fertilizer and from the breakdown of animal (and human) waste products.

These are only a few of the GHGs. The cycle and the chemical process of formation and breakdown can be complicated for each one of the GHGs presented. The key point is that there is a range, an upper and lower boundary, for things to function optimally on planet Earth.

The key take-away point is balance: avoid taking too much from a system or overloading a system for an extended period of time.

RIP's Victim Impact Class provides assistance for offenders

Media Release
MCN Reintegration Program

HENRYETTA — *The following is a letter submitted by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program:*

My name is Carrie Wyatt and I work for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program. Our program is vital in the efforts of successful reintegration and transition assistance. We are a tribally funded program geared towards providing Creek citizens who have been incarcerated or soon to be released the opportunity to benefit from our services.

One of the many programs our office provides is a Victim Impact Class. Victim Impact is geared toward helping offenders to become more aware of the impact that crime has on victims and to take responsibility for their actions and begin to make amends. It consists of 13 units, built around 10 core crime topics including: property crime, assault, robbery, hate and bias, gang violence, sexual assault, child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, drunk and impaired driving and homicide.

I started teaching Victim Impact at John H. Lilley Correctional Center in April of 2012. I teach twice a week with a morning class of 12 students and an afternoon class of 12 students.

Photo provided/MCN RIP
Pictured above is the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program's Victim Impact Class which is geared toward helping offenders become more aware of the impact that crime has on victims and to take responsibility for their actions.

As of today, I have had a total of 72 students. I administer a pre-test which gives me an opportunity to obtain the respondent's attitudes toward the victimization experience and rough measure of levels of expressed empathy they have for victims.

It also allows me to see their attitudes regarding self-accountability and the need or desire to make amends with victims. At the end of the seven week program, I administer the post test which is the same as the pre-test, to see how their thought process has changed after taking the Victim Impact class.

I have a small graduation ceremony at the end where we have group activities, lunch and I present them their certificates. I have to say, I learn a lot from each group I teach. It's a great feeling to see these men show such dedication to this class and willingness to have the desire for a better understanding on how their actions affect people.

I let the men know and teach them that their past does not define who they are or what their future holds. I let them know that the best way to show forgiveness is by change and that they always have a choice on how they react to a situation.

Change is not easy. Change is a process, not an event. It takes time, motivation, and work. I truly believe that every one of my students is capable of this process and I wish nothing but the best for them.

The Reintegration Program is based on everything that I believe in. The program presents that everyone is capable of change and deserves a second chance. I feel that it is a privilege to be in the position that I am.

For more information about our program, you can visit our website at www.mcnrip.com or contact our office at 918-652-2676 or toll free at 1-800-259-1059.

MCN Tribal Walking Program

Who: Any American Indian 12 years and older living within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation jurisdiction and spouse or parent of an American Indian Walking Program participant.

What: The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Diabetes Program is offering an incentive based walking program to encourage its citizens to be more physically active all year round.

Where and When:

Koweta Clinic Area Communities- *Contact: Taylor Thompson @ 918-807-1561*

Muskogee Community Sign-up: November 8, 6:00-7:00pm @ New Muscogee Community Center - (335 N. 4th St Muskogee, OK 74401)
Tulsa Community Sign-up: November 13, 6:00-7:00pm @ Tulsa Community Center - (8611 S. Union Tulsa, OK 74132)
Koweta Community Sign-up: November 15, 6:00-7:00pm @ Koweta Community Center - (30901 E 141st St Coweta, OK 74429)
Koweta Clinic Employee Sign-up: November 14, 3:00-4:00 In the Diabetes Kitchen

Okmulgee Clinic Area Communities- *Contact: William Fixico @ 918-637-9683*

Morris/Twin Hills Community Sign-up: November 5, 6:00-7:00pm @ Morris Trinity Baptist Church
Yardeka Community Sign-up: November 8, 6:30-7:30pm @ Yardeka Community Center
Dewar/Wilson Community Sign-up: November 13, 6:00-7:00pm @ Dewar Community Center
Okmulgee Community Sign-up: November 15, 6:30-7:30pm @ Okmulgee Elderly Housing
Okmulgee Clinic Sign-up: November 20, 5:15-6:15 pm @ Diabetes Building

Sapulpa Clinic Area Communities- *Contact: Duane Meadows @ 918-695-1325*

Glenpool/Duck Creek - November 1st from 6pm-7pm @ Glenpool Indian Community Center (13839 S Casper)
Sapulpa - November 5th from 6pm-7pm @ Sapulpa Indian Community Center (1020 North Brown)
Kellyville - November 6th from 6pm-7pm @ Kellyville Indian Community Center (18901 W. Hwy 66)
Bristow - November 13th from 6pm-7pm @ Bristow Indian Community Center (710 S. Main)

Eufaula Clinic Area Communities- *Contact: Kimberlee Little @ 918-637-9684*

Hanna-November 1st from 6pm-7pm @ Hanna School Gym
Stidham-November 5th from 6pm-7pm @ Stidham Community Center
Eufaula-November 6th from 6pm-7pm @ Eufaula Indian Community
Checotah-November 13th from 6pm-7pm @ Checotah Indian Community
EIHC Employees-November 14th from 12-1pm; 2-3pm & 5-6pm @Diabetes Building

Okemah Clinic Area Communities- *Contact: Irene Culley @ 918-636-8735*

November 1st from 6-7 pm @ Okemah Indian Community
November 5th from 6-7 pm @ Paden School Cafeteria
November 6th from 6-7 pm @ Weleetka Indian Community
November 8th from 6- 7 pm @ Holdenville Indian Community
November 13th from 6 -7pm @ Okfuskee Indian Community
November 15th from 6 - 7pm @ Wetumka Indian Community

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Walking Program is excited to get you started in our program, whether you are a new or returning participant. We will have incentives, pedometers, and we will be offering gift cards for finishing the program in a healthy level. If you are unable to make the sign-up in your community, feel free to come to a community sign-up in your clinic area to join our program. We hope to see you there!

The Mortgage Down Payment and Closing Cost Program

The Mortgage Down Payment and Closing Cost Program helps Native Americans become first time homeowners by providing financial assistance for acquiring a home mortgage.

To pre-qualify for the program, the applicant must meet the following requirements.

- Preference will be given to Creek Citizens.
- Be a first time home buyer or not have owned a home within five years of application.
- Live within the State of Oklahoma.
- Must not be an existing or former Mutual Help participant or NAHASDA Homebuyer/Lease with Option to Purchase regardless of Housing Service Area.
- Have an annual family income which does not exceed 80% of the national Median income as published by HUD.
- Be 18 years or older.
- Provide all requested information, which includes Citizenship cards for preference purposes, Social Security cards and employment verification for each working family member.
- Sign all required forms including the Consent for Disclosure of Information.
- Meet all credit check and financial obligations for loan assistance from an approved and certified financial lender.

FOR A PRE-APPLICATION CONTACT LADONNA NORTHCROSS AT 918-549-2554 OR VISIT THE WEBSITE AT www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov

The Mortgage Down Payment Assistance program Pre-Approval does not guarantee a Mortgage Loan from an Outside Lender.

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CHICKEN FRIED STEAK $6.25
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OBITUARIES

FANNIE LOU BEVENUE

TULSA — Fannie Lou Bevenue was born Feb. 8, 1940 and passed from this life Sunday, Sept. 16, 2012 at St. John Medical Center, in Tulsa, Okla.

Lou, as all her family called her, was a life-long resident of Sapulpa, Okla. At the time of her death, she was a resident of Sherwood Manor in Tulsa, Okla.

Lou was preceded in death by her parents, Leonard L. Bevenue and Mary Bevenue; grandmother, Babie Crow Cumsey; brother, Leonard L. Bevenue, Jr. (Chubby); and nephew Earnest Bevenue.

She leaves behind two sisters, Jean Pahestopah and Virginia Rangel and Joe; four brothers, Kenneth Paul Bevenue and Patsy, Ronnie Bevenue and Linda, Wagoner, Okla., Raymond Bevenue and Donnie Bevenue and Carol all of Sapulpa.

She also had a host of nieces and nephews and cousins. She also has one uncle, Pat Bevenue all from Sapulpa. Wake services were held at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2012 at Pickett Chapel, Sapulpa.

Funeral services were held Sept. 19, 2012 at Pickett Chapel with Rev. Nelson Harjo officiating. Pallbearers were Mike Pahsetopah, Donald Bevenue, Lou Pahestopah, Raymond Bevenue, Jr., Bryan Pahsetopah and Wayne Bevenue.

Honorary pallbearers were Russell Pahsetopah, Tony Bevenue, Jeremy Rangel and Josh Bevenue.

Interment followed at Bevenue Family Cemetery, located at 2810 S. Hickory, in Sapulpa, where she was laid to rest next to her mother and father.

Funeral arrangements were under the direction of Smith Funeral Home in Sapulpa.

RAYMOND CHOTKEY

NORMAN — Raymond Chotkey was born June 11, 1920 to Willie Jacobs and Cynthia (Day) Jacobs in the Eufaula area. He worked for Trinity Steele and Cattlemen's Cafe for many years.

He married Mae Bullitt in 1966 and they were the parents of six children. Raymond married Nancy Hall in 1985. He was a veteran of World War II, serving his time in Camp Roberts, Calif. He was honorably discharged as a Private in 1945.

He is preceded in death by his parents, sisters Velma (Judy) Pigeon, Mary Hobia, brother Amos Tiger and son Samuel (Big Boy) Chotkey.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy, of the home; daughters Melissa Worcester of Weleetka and Estelen Secondin of Shawnee; sons John Chotkey of Weleetka, Raymond Jr., of Weleetka and Chester Chotkey of Glenpool; step-daughter Maxine Hill of Weleetka, siblings Liz Severs and Billy Chotkey of Okemah, 13 grandchildren, 21 great grandchildren, six great-great grandchildren, sister, Nell Kincade, of Wetumka as well as numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

The family would like to thank Belleview Nursing and Rehabilitation Center and the Veterans Center in Norman for the wonderful care they gave to Raymond.

A memorial service was held in St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church Aug. 25, 2012.

NORMAN JEAN TARYOLE CRADDOCK

GRAHAM, N.C. — Norman Jean Taryole Craddock, 74, went to her Heavenly home, Sept. 17, 2012 in Graham, N.C., surrounded by her children. She was born Dec. 19, 1937 to Marchie and Betsy (Leader) Taryole. She attended City View High School in Mangum, Okla., and Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kan.

She was of the Deer Clan and Nuyaka Ceremonial Grounds. She married Dennis Craddock in 1964 in Fort Smith, Ark. She enjoyed basketball, watching the Atlanta Braves baseball games and loved being with her family.

Survivors include her daughter, Shannon Denise Craddock and son, Denne Eagle Craddock of Graham, N.C., sister, JoAnn and Bill Dodd of Elsinore, Utah and brother, Wayne Taryole and wife, Toni, of Mountain View, Okla., two nieces, five nephews and many cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Winfred and Steven Taryole; nephew, Christopher Taryole and a niece, infant baby girl.

MELISSA ANN MITCHELL

WETUMKA — Melissa Ann Mitchell was born April 2, 1977 at Claremore Indian Hospital to Shirley (Harjo) Pigeon and the late Frank Mitchell. She passed from this life at the young age of 35 years old Oct. 24, 2012.

Funeral Services were held Oct. 27, 2012 at Wetumka Indian Baptist with Pastor Woody Fields officiating.

She spent all of her life in Tulsa with family and friends. She was not in good health due to a heart problem but she loved going to the movies. The horror movies were her favorite. She did a lot of baby-sitting and just loved visiting with family and friends.

She had a great love for her family, especially for her children – Shayla, Annissa, Noah, and baby Elijah who she considered as one of her own.

She was preceded in death by her father, Frank Mitchell, and her grandparents, Noah and Nancy Harjo, Eliza (Gouge) Mitchell, Sam and Eloise Mitchell and her Uncle Willie Harjo.

She is survived by her husband Raymond Fogel of the home, her children, Shayla Fogel of the home, Annissa Pigeon of Okemah, Noah Mitchell of Okemah, and Elijah Proctor of Tulsa, her mother and stepfather Shirley and Walter Pigeon of Okemah, grandfather John Pigeon of Okemah, brother Christopher Mitchell and four sisters Angela Mitchell of Cherokee, N.C., Rakell Vann of Tahlequah, Stephanie Byrd of Tulsa and Missy Pigeon of Okmulgee as well as numerous aunts, uncles, family and friends.

Pallbearers were Dakota Harjo, Lloyd Harjo, Stanley Harjo, Noah Harjo, Micah Harjo, Darrin Rollins, Bill Brown and Ronnie Knapp.

She was laid to rest at the Harjo family cemetery.

She will always be forever in our hearts and missed by all who knew her.

JOHNNY LEE POWELL

OKMULGEE — Johnny Lee Powell passed away at his home in Okmulgee Sept. 7, 2012 at the age of 53.

He was born Oct. 20, 1958 and grew up around the Salem and Ryal communities. He was employed at the Okmulgee Cemetery for 14 years.

He enjoyed spending time with his family and watching his sports (OU, L.A. Lakers, Denver Broncos and St. Louis Rams) He attended school at Ryal and Graham High School, graduating in May 1977. In 1978, after graduating, he went to the National Guard. He furthered his education by attending OSU Tech in plumbing/pipefitting and construction.

Johnny was preceded in death by his grandfather, William Smith, son Donnie Lindsey, niece Thomasina Watson, nephew Anthony Watson, uncle Johnson Smith, two aunts: Lucille Sumka and Lizzie Gouge.

He is survived by his wife of 33 years, Katherine Powell of the home, daughter Wynona Powell of Okmulgee, two sons: Johnny Powell, Jr. and Stephan Powell of the home, six grandchildren: Nathan Powell, Seth, Ethan and Raina Sands all of Okmulgee, Mia Anderson and Angel Hartley of Wetumka, his mother Louise Harjo, aunt May Frye, three sisters: Nellie Powell, Jensie Powell Jimboy and Lydia Powell, two brothers: Roman Powell and Jerry Powell, two nieces: Justina Powell, Stephanie Looney, three nephews: Joe Looney, Rusty Tisho, Jr. and Richard Morgan. He will be missed, never forgotten and forever loved.

A funeral service at the Yardeka Indian Baptist Church was held Sept. 12 at 2 p.m. Interment followed at the Smith Family Cemetery in Dustin, Okla.

Pallbearers were Johnny Powell, Jr., Stephan Powell, T.J. Jesse, Alan Snow, Boone Watson, Roman Powell, James Frye and Harbie Frye, Jr. Honorary casket bearers are Nathan Powell, Seth, Ethan and Raina Sands, Mekko and Jade Smith, Mia Anderson and Angel Hartley.

A family and friends viewing was held Sept. 11, 2012 at the McClendon-Winters Funeral Home in Okmulgee followed by a wake service at Yardeka Indian Baptist Church

Arrangements were under the direction of the McClendon-Winters Funeral Home of Okmulgee. Online condolences may be sent to www.mcclendon-winters.com

JOSEPH SMITH

MARYSVILLE, Calif. — Joseph Smith (Muscogee (Creek) / Rosebud Lakota Sioux) passed in Marysville, Calif., Oct. 9, 2012 on his 82nd birthday.

Smith was born in Claremore, Okla., in 1930, the son of Stanley Smith (Lakota) and Josephine Jacobs (Muscogee), and grandson of Joseph (Muscogee) and Nancy Jacobs (Muscogee).

He lived in Fame, Okla., where he attended Fame Elementary School, then Jones Academy Indian School where he was a member of the boxing and football teams.

Smith then attended high school at Sequoyah Indian School in Tahlequah, Okla., where he also played football. At 16, he joined the Marine Corps, and was wounded in action in the Korean War.

Smith was discharged after 25 years in the Marines as Sergeant Major. He then moved to Modesto, Stockton, and finally Olivehurst and Marysville.

A northern California Powwow institution, he served as powwow chair and member of a multitude of powwow committees, arena director, master of ceremonies, and color guard, all over the state for more than 31 years. "Grampa" Joe was member of the Black Wolf Gourd Society and the Red Cloud Veterans Society of Eureka. He was also a long-time member and former Northern Vice-President of California Indian Education Association.

In 2008, he was awarded Honored Elder at the California Conference on American Indian Education in Redding, for his many years of service to Native American Indian students of all ages.

Honorings were held Oct. 13, 2012, at the Berkeley 20th Annual Indigenous Peoples Day Powwow and at the Auburn Powwow, Oct. 20, 2012. Services were Oct. 15, in Marysville.

THANK YOU

OKMULGEE — The family of Thomas LaSarge would like to say, "thank you" to his loving family members, relatives and friends, George Tiger, Roger Barnett, Creek Nation staff, Okmulgee Indian Community and Shurden Jackson Funeral Home.

A special thank you to Alfred Berryhill, Sammy Chupco, Norman Daniel, Charlie Simmers, Jimmy Alexander, Andrew Johnson, Donnie McNac and Pulver.

Our family was overwhelmed by the love, kindness, support prayers, visits, phone calls, cards, flowers and delicious food. Thanks to the Tallahassee cooks and members who served.

Thank you all very much for your warmth, thoughtfulness and sympathy.

— Family of Thomas LaSarge

THANK YOU

OKMULGEE — The Family of Johnny Powell would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their support and assistance during the time of our loss.

Mvto to Darlene Taryole, Redeena Butler, Okmulgee Indian Community, The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Second Chief Roger Barnett, MCN Social Services, the Seminole Nation Burial Program, Bobbi Crabtree, Sin and Robin Jones, Yardeka Indian Baptist Church, MCN Lighthorse, Mark Sumka, Freda Frye. Robert Taylor, Mvskoke Honor Guard, Mitchell Taylor Jr., Mark Smith and others that came to be with us during this time.

- Katherine Powell and family

THANK YOU

WETUMKA — The family of Melissa Mitchell would like to thank Wetumka Indian Church and Moore Funeral Home for their services.

A special thank you to Pastor Woody Fields for welcoming us to the church and for officiating and to Darrell Coachman and all the women who prepared the meals.

Thank you to Muscogee (Creek) Nation Social Services and the Tribal Driveway Program and to all whom sent flowers.

Thank you to all for all the comforting words and prayers during our time of sorrow.

Mvto.

- Wayne Taryole and family

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NOVEMBER 23RD

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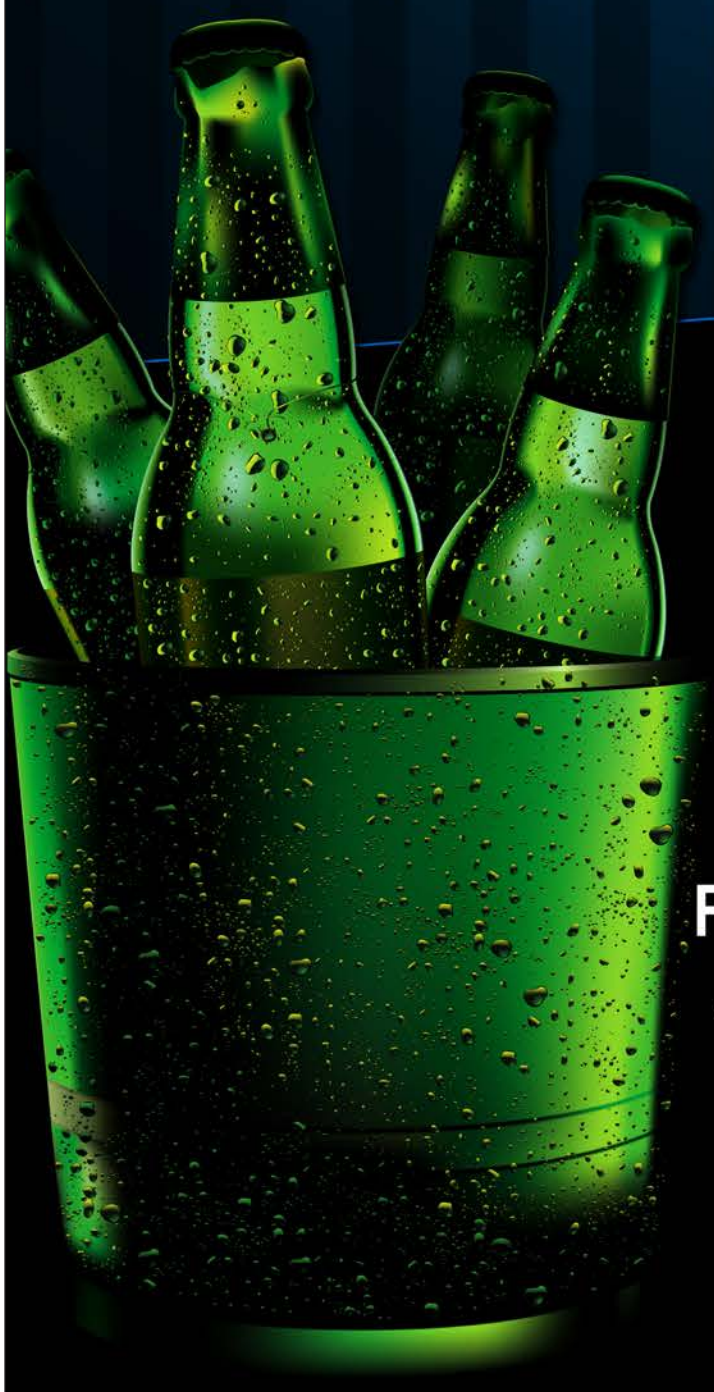

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Muscogee Nation News

Official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and a production of Mvskoke Media

Mvskoke Etvlwv festival brings international spotlight to MCN

Mvskoke life showcased at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.

Rebecca Landsberry
MNN Editor

WASHINGTON — More than 160 Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) citizens attended the Native American Heritage Month Family Celebration: Mvskoke Etvlwv at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) in Washington, D.C., Nov. 15-17.

The festival featured a variety of Muscogee (Creek) artists, stomp dance demonstrations, Mvskoke hymn singing and storytelling. Also included were informational booths with representatives from several tribal programs and services showcasing the tribe's government, and speaking panels on the Ocmulgee to Okmulgee Bicycle Tour, Mvskoke Nation Honor Guard and Mvskoke veterans.

MCN departments represented included Lighthorse Police, Reintegration, Mvskoke Media, Southern Regional Office, Veteran Affairs Service Office, Family Violence Prevention, Tourism & Recreation, Citizenship, JOM, Environmental Services, Housing Division, Community Research & Development and the Division of Health.

MNN/Sterling Cosper
The Muscogee (Creek) Nation flag flew in front of the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian and was seen by international visitors during the Native American Heritage Month Family Celebration: Mvskoke Etvlwv in Washington D.C., just down the street from the U.S. Capitol Building.

According to NMAI Cultural Arts Program Specialist Vincent Scott, the museum's mission focuses on showcasing native nations from North, Central and South America. Asst. Director Cameron McGuire spoke on behalf of NMAI at the opening ceremony.

"This is Native American Heritage Month so it is very fitting that you're here and it's also the time when we celebrate veterans… It's important for our visitors, it's important to the minds in the Capitol here, that the strong presence of Indian Country is represented as often as possible here in the museum," McGuire said.

SEE CAPITOL - 2

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Dec. 12, 2012
Vol. 42, Issue 23
"Rvfo Rakko"
Big Winter Month

Stone Blade Restaurant opens at Okmulgee Country Club

MCN hosts ribbon-cutting ceremony for Stone Blade Restaurant and Bar

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE — A ribbon-cutting ceremony and press conference was held for the opening of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Okmulgee Golf Club Stone Blade Restaurant and Bar, Dec. 6. The tribe purchased the club in May for $3.6 million.

Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise (MNBE) CEO Woody Anderson, Principal Chief George Tiger and Second Chief Roger Barnett all spoke at the conference, which was followed by a ribbon-cutting at the restaurant. Anderson thanked the MCN administration, National Council and several MCN departments including: Tourism and Recreation, Facilities and Arbor Care for their assistance.

MNN/Darren DeLaune
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger along with Second Chief Roger Barnett cut a ribbon officially opening Stone Blade Restaurant and Bar, part of the Okmulgee Country Club, Dec. 6.

"When you see Creek Nation; it is a team effort that goes into it," Anderson said.

Part of the renovations in the kitchen and dining areas were done with surplus materials from the MCN-owned Riverwalk Crossing in Jenks, Okla.

"This has been a journey for us to get this facility in order," Anderson said.

Stone Blade is open to the public and no club membership is required. Hours are Tuesday-Saturday 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., for lunch and 5-10 p.m., for dinner. The menu features lunch and dinner items with side options, appetizers, deserts, salads and beverages including a wine list.

Anderson stated that the restaurant renovations are only the first step and his team is developing a master site plan.

"The biggest piece of this is really the golf course," he said.

Tiger stated that they are in the process of negotiating with a management group.

"They have done an evaluation of the golf course," he said.

Tiger shared his feelings about the ongoing renovations.

"Anything that is as historic as this golf course sometimes just needs TLC and that's what we see needs to be done with this facility," he said.

Council approves Expo name deal at Nov. 17 session

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

Muscogee (Creek) Nation veterans marched to show their support for legislation granting an increase in compensation for National Council members, Nov. 17. The legislative branch also approved a resolution authorizing the Principal Chief to enter into an agreement regarding the naming of the Expo Center on the Tulsa Fairgrounds.

• TR 12-158 A tribal resolution of the MCN amending TR-152 (A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a naming rights and sponsorship agreement with the Tulsa County Public Facilities authority regarding the naming rights of the Expo Center at the Tulsa State Fairgrounds in Tulsa, Okla.). Sponsor: Alexander. Approved 15-0.

• TR 12-159 A tribal resolution of the MCN authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a separate memorandum of understanding with seven Oklahoma counties for the maintenance of roadways/bridges

SEE NOVEMBER - 3

MvskokeMedia

Muscogee Nation News Staff

Manager
Christina Good Voice

Editor
Rebecca Landsberry

Editorial Assistant
Gary Fife

Reporter
Sterling Cosper

Sports Writer
Darren DeLaune

Feature Writer
Gerald Wofford

Circulation
Wilma Lewis

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To submit a change of address or a letter to the editor, call (918) 732-7720 or send e-mail to: wlewis@mcn-nsn.gov

NAJA
Members of the Native American Journalists Association

Muscogee Nation News to print single edition in December

Rebecca Landsberry
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE — Due to a technical issue, the *Muscogee Nation News* will publish a single edition during the month of December.

The MNN apologizes for the disruption in the print publication schedule; however, we encourage our readers to explore our Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/muscogeenationnews if they haven't yet done so for the latest in tribal and community news, events and multimedia coverage.

Thank you from all the staff for your continued support of the award-winning MNN and please do not hesitate to contact our office at 918-732-7720 for more information.

Happy holidays!

MNN/Sterling Cosper
Members of the Duck Creek Ceremonial Ground performed stompdance demonstrations to for thousands of on-lookers during the Native American Heritage Month Family Celebration: Mvskoke Etvlwv at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., Nov. 15-17.

Capitol

Continued from Page 1

Members of the executive and legislative branches attended including Principal Chief George Tiger with First Lady Frances Tiger, Second Chief Roger Barnett, National Council Speaker Sam Alexander and Second Speaker Robert Hufft as well as other representatives.

"Those forefathers and foremothers before us – our visionaries – they knew that this day would come… The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is proud to be here and share with you, our stories," Tiger said.

Visitors at the festival were asked to sign a book at the entrance to the museum. Afterwards, their signatures reflected citizens, tourists and travelers from as far away as Asia and other parts of the world. These participants danced, talked with program representatives about the MCN and experience many aspects of Muscogee (Creek) culture featured throughout the event.

In an interview with Muscogee Nation News Reporter Sterling Cosper on day two of the event, co-coordinator and MCN Museum & Cultural Center Assistant Director Justin Giles said things went smoothly and that the anticipation for the turnout on day three was growing.

"The first two days have been phenomenal – nothing but a smooth operation here from loading and setting up – a lot of visitors coming in for the first two days, and really just a great time sharing our traditions, our culture and honoring our veterans for these past two days," Giles said.

MCN Veteran Affairs Service Office Assistant Director Shawn Taryole spoke about the posters he worked to create for the 'Native Words, Native Warriors' banner exhibit highlighting Mvskoke veterans, which was displayed on the fourth floor of the museum during the event.

"We brought 20 of our banners from World War I all the way to the Iraq War as well as our Mvskoke women that served," Taryole said.

Taryole said members of the Mvskoke Nation Honor Guard were available during the exhibit to answer questions from the public.

"Them being veterans themselves . . . give some insight to some of the banners and give their own personal take on it. We also have an Honor Guard banner as one of the 20," Taryole said.

Each day, members of the Mvskoke Nation Honor Guard posted and retired colors at the beginning and end of the festival. Members of the honor guard also spoke about their responsibilities and service during a panel on day two. Member Sam Bass gave an emotional account about his experience with the group and their role at Mvskoke funerals, where they provide recognition of deceased Mvskoke veterans' military service.

"I called up my brothers here to help us out, so the Sac and Fox guys folded a flag for my dad and these guys [Mvskoke Nation Honor Guard] fired rifles for my dad. For that, I will be eternally grateful," Bass said.

A cultural highlight of the event included members of Duck Creek Ceremonial Ground leading stompdance demonstrations. Painters, potters, stickball stick makers and other artists also displayed and sold their work to the public and answered questions about their crafts.

Muscogee (Creek) artist Dana Tiger said presenting these talents on an international level at the Smithsonian and showing that the Mvskoke are a living nation with language, culture and a unique identity is essential.

"We are still here. We are doing so many beautiful things. We've got so much to share," Tiger said.

Cultural Interpreter and Cherokee citizen Rachael Cassidy said having the MCN at NMAI was a taste of Oklahoma.

"It's great to see people from home. It really adds to what we're able to share with the folks here in D.C. I'm excited that we're honoring veterans right after Veterans Day. That's an amazing opportunity for people here," Cassidy said.

She responded with one word as to what she believes is the single most valuable thing in the museum.

"Knowledge. So thank you very much to our Creek brothers and sisters for coming out and sharing your culture, sharing your knowledge," Cassidy said.

Muscogee (Creek) storyteller George Coser also immersed audiences of all ages in Mvskoke tales on the third floor. Children and adults listened as he recounted stories passed down to him from generations.

"Most of the stories I tell are from our tribe, the Muscogee (Creek), and it's from the stories I've heard from grandma, grandpa, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends that have been given to me. So I'm passing them down," Coser said.

Coser said the stories he tells are a mix of contemporary and tradition.

"We are oral storytelling people. That is a tradition that we've had a long time. If we don't continue it, it's going to be a lost art. No matter where you go, there's always going to be someone telling a story. The best thing to do is listen," Coser said.

The museum exhibits festival similar to Mvskoke Etvlwv yearround, however, during Native American Heritage Month and the course of the three-day event, NMAI reported an increase in visitors, which totaled 12,538.

"During the month of November, we celebrate all these nations, showing off their banners or their flags, that have been gifted from the nations to the museum," Scott said.

He said the MCN's presence in Washington, D.C., was a meaningful experience for museum staff, patrons and tribal representatives.

"In addition to just educating our public, who are visitors from the local community, or the nation or the world, a lot of times when a Native nation celebrates a festival here, it gives people who belong to that Native nation but no longer live close by, like in Oklahoma or somewhere near there, a chance to reconnect with their culture," Scott said.

Creek citizens honored with 'Native American 40 Under 40' awards

Media Release
Mvskoke Media

CATOOSA — Three Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizens were recognized Nov. 15 as recipients of the annual Native American 40 Under 40 award at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Catoosa, Okla.

The citizens honored were Justin Bruce Giles, Jason Salsman and Christina Good Voice, who are also employees of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Giles is the Assistant Director of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Museum and Cultural Center, Salsman is the Visual Media Supervisor for Mvskoke Media and Good Voice is the Manager of Mvskoke Media.

The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development introduced the Native American 40 Under 40 in 2009 to recognize emerging American Indian leaders between the ages of 18-39.

The awards are given to individuals "who have demonstrated leadership, initiative and dedication to achieve significant contributions in business, communities and Indian Country," states a NCAIED media release.

Award winners were nominated and then selected by a panel of NCAIED representatives.

The NCAIED presented the honorees with their awards at the 37th annual Indian Progress in Business Awards Gala, a featured event of RES Oklahoma, a new two-day Reservation Economic Summit event that took place Nov. 14-15.

Mvskoke Media/Tyler Roberds
From left, Jason Salsman, Justin Giles and Christina Good Voice represented the Muscogee (Creek) Nation as citizens and employees when they were recognized with the 'Native American 40 Under 40' award Nov. 15.

Giles said it was humbling to have been selected as a recipient of the award.

"Mvto to my wife, Cherrah Giles, my family and friends for keeping me in line and constantly supporting and encouraging me to do good in this life," Giles said. "I also congratulate and 'high five' the other Muscogee Nation staff who have received this recognition as well. I have a good feeling of pride for our Muscogee Nation and will respect and represent our traditions, culture and people as best as I can."

Salsman said the award is a testament to the people who provide stability and support in his life, including his family and work family.

"This recognition would not be possible without each and every one of those people," Salsman said. "Anytime you are recognized for the work you do on a day-to-day basis, it is a bit of a surprise. I think for me, I tend to get caught up in the routine and daily grind of producing a weekly television program that you sometimes forget that there is an audience. When those that are watching see the result and recognize it as being significant, it is sometimes unexpected, but extremely gratifying."

Salsman credits much of his success in his field of work to his tribe.

"A huge part of my success has been my tribe, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, having the vision and awareness to recognize the importance in bringing our stories and our news to the people through visual media," he said. "I'm proud to say that we're still the only tribe with a weekly show on network TV."

Good Voice said she was honored to receive the award from the NCAIED, and that it was a great feeling to be among so many young, talented and driven American Indians.

"It was exciting to see so many young and accomplished Natives come together to be honored for their hard work, dedication and commitment to their tribes and communities," Good Voice said. "I'm proud to say I'm in the ranks of the 40 Under 40 recipients, especially my colleagues Justin Giles and Jason Salsman. I look forward to seeing what great things we'll all accomplish in the future."

NOVEMBER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and associated rights-of-way constructed or improved by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Indian Reservation Roads Program. Sponsor: LaGrone; co-sponsor: Proctor. Approved 15-0.

• TR 12-160 A tribal resolution of the MCN authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the Indian Health Service (IHS) for satisfactory domestic water supply and adequate wastewater disposal facilities for 30 new or like-new Indian homes in Creek, Hughes, Mayes, McIntosh, Muskogee, Okfuskee, Rogers, Seminole, Tulsa, and Wagoner counties in Okla. Sponsor: Randolph. Approved 15-0.

• TR 12-161 A tribal resolution of the MCN authorizing the Principal Chief to execute an agreement for the purchase of property located in Creek County, Okla. Sponsor: Randolph. Approved: 15-0.

• TR 12-162 A tribal resolution of the MCN supporting the Muscogee (Creek) Nation supporting the MCN Division of Health's participation in a grant of the John T. Vucurevich Cancer Center and Native American Center Research Corporation titled "Using MHealth & Navigation to improve American Indian Cancer Quality of Life. Sponsor: Thomas. Approved 15-0.

• TR 12-163 A tribal resolution of the MCN supporting the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Health's participation in a grant of the Native American Cancer Research corporation titled, "Enhancing American Indian Cancer Prevention and Screening by Navigation and MHealth." Sponsor: Thomas. Approved 15-0.

• TR 12-164 A tribal resolution of the MCN authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the nation and IHS for the employment of Amy D. Eden as commissioned personnel at the MCN Division of Health. Sponsor: Greene. Approved: 15-0.

• TR 12-165 A tribal resolution of the MCN authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the nation, the Federal Highway Administration and the Alabama Department of Transportation for the preservation and protection of human remains, property or archeological artifacts discovered during the construction of the Birmingham Northern Beltline at the Self Creek site. Sponsor: LaGrone. Approved: 15-0

• TR 12-166 A tribal resolution of the MCN authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a partnership agreement between the Oklahoma Small Business Development Center (OSBDC) and the MCN. Sponsor: Hufft. Approved 15-0.

• TR 12-167 A tribal resolution of the MCN approving liquor and beer sales at the Stone Blade Restaurant and beer at the Okmulgee Golf Club. Sponsor: Nichols. Approved: 14-1, Johnson voting no.

• TR 12-168 A tribal resolution regarding a law suit of the MCN versus Salazar on the Cobell settlement. Sponsor: Alexander. Motion to postpone indefinitely failed 15-0.

• TR 12-169 A tribal resolution of the MCN authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a separate AT&T ILEC Plexar pricing schedule/confirmation of service order with AT&T for three separate MCN Division of Health facilities. Sponsor: Hill, co-sponsors Jones III, Coachman, Ade. Approved 15-0.

• TR 12-170 A tribal resolution of the MCN authorizing a donation of $25,000 to Two Rivers Native American Training Center. Sponsor: Hufft. 15-0.

• NCA 12-201 A law of the MCN clarifying appropriations to the Euchee United Cultural Historical Education Effort, Inc. (E.U.C.H.E.E.) for the Euchee language preservation project. Sponsor: Barnett. Motion to postpone approved: 15-0.

• NCA 12-203 A law of the MCN authorizing a donation of $8,000 to the organization "ECHO." Sponsor: Proctor, co-sponsors: Thomas, Randolph, Barnett. Motion to postpone approved 11 yes, 4 no. Barnett, Johnson, Proctor, and Randolph voting no.

• NCA 12-223 A law of the MCN amending MCNCA Title 30, chapter 4, entitled "Compensation of National Council." Sponsor: Alexander; co-sponsors Ade, Greene. Approved 10-5, Hill, Hufft, Johnson, Proctor and Beaver voting no.

• NCA 12-224 A law of the MCN approving an amendment to the 2013 Indian Housing Plan. Sponsor: LaGrone, co-sponsor: Proctor. Approved 15-0.

• NCA 12-225 A law of the MCN authorizing an appropriation of $75,000 to provide Small Business entrepreneurial and economic development services to Muscogee Nation small business owners and new entrepreneurs through the partnership agreement with the Oklahoma Small Business Development Center (OKSBDC). Sponsor: Hufft Approved: 15-0.

• NCA 12-227 A law of the MCN authorizing a special appropriation of $2,400 for unpaid funeral services of a Muscogee (Creek) citizen. Sponsor: Coachman. Approved: 15-0.

• NCA 12-228 A law of the MCN authorizing a special appropriation of $2,730 to a Muscogee (Creek) citizen. Sponsor: Thomas. Approved: 15-0.

• NCA 12-229 A law of the MCN authorizing a special appropriation of $400 to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Sponsor: Coachman. Approved: 15-0.

• NCA 12-231 A law of the MCN authorizing a donation of $1,000 to the Wild Wolf Singers Drum Group. Sponsor: Alexander, cosponsor: Proctor. Approved: 13-2. LaGrone, Johnson voting no.

• NCA 12-232 Supplemental funding to Environmental Services. Approved 15-0.

• NCA 12-233 Title 22, Chapter 10; voter registration. Approved 15-0.

MNN/Gary Fife
Muscogee veterans marched in support of legislation increasing compensation for National Council representatives during the Nov. 17 regular session at the MCN Mound Building.

Martel III helps Beggs Demons to championship

Gerald Wofford
MNN Sports Reporter

BEGGS — Saturday, Nov. 10 proved to be a special night for young Creek athlete Joe Martel III, when he and his teammates, the Beggs Gold 5th and 6th grade team captured the title in the local little league football division.

Beggs Gold defeated the Beggs Black team with a score of 19-0.

Martel helped his team complete a perfect season, going 10-0, with the use of prosthetic legs and continues to compete in other sports.

During the awards ceremony, Beggs Gold Head Coach Houston Spring hoisted the gold trophy that represented all that the team had worked for the entire season. The team understood that it was an effort on the part of everyone and the heart and determination of one young man reflected that.

"I wish I had more kids like him [Martel]," said Spring. "I've coached him through baseball, basketball, football and you couldn't ask for a better kid with all the obstacles that he has had to face. If we all had the heart that he has, we would all be a lot more successful in life."

Martel's father, Joe, wanted to especially thank the Muscogee (Creek) for their help in getting the young Creek athlete his prosthetic legs back in August, "He worked all summer in the 105 degree heat and he knew what tonight was all about," Martel said.

Joe had another reason to celebrate when his younger son, Meku-Sapv, or Red, as he is known, helped his first and second grade team win their division also.

MNN/Gerald Wofford

Pictured below Joe Martel Jr., and wife Kimberly, celebrate with their son, Joe Martel III, after winning his little league football division title.

Native teammates strengthen Glenpool football

MNN/Gerald Wofford

Pictured from left to right are Glenpool football teammates Caleb Bigpond, Zach Pollard, Christian Perez, Anthony Billie and Brendin Ballard.

Gerald Wofford
MNN Sports Reporter

GLENPOOL — Glenpool students Caleb Bigpond, Derek Hill, Christian Perez, Anthony Billie, Brendin Ballard, Zach Pollard, Dustin Chadwick and Joseph Looney are off to a good start in their pursuit of gridiron greatness. These Native American boys have played football together from first through seventh grade, during which, the Muscogee (Creek) and Yuchi athletes have compiled an impressive record of 56 wins to six losses.

They competed in the Indian Nations Football Conference, which includes Jenks, Broken Arrow and Owasso and is considered by many to be one of the best youth football leagues in the country.

The kids have been committed to their sport, spending the off-season attending football camps like Josh Heupel's 'Day of Champions' during the summer. Glenpool running back Caleb Bigpond has even been invited to the 'Day of Champions' elite running back camp for the past three years by former NFL Chicago Bears running back coach Earle Mosley.

The Indian athletes are committed to the Glenpool football program and plan to be teammates until they graduate high school. They just completed their seventh grade season, going undefeated.

The sixth grade team also had a no-loss record of 6-0 and the eighth grade team boasted a record of six wins and two losses.

Been signs with Mid-America Christian University

Darren DeLaune
MNN Sports Reporter

DEWAR — On Nov. 6, Mid-America Christian University women's basketball coach Roman Owen added Muscogee (Creek) citizen Cheyenne Been to his squad for the 2013-2014 basketball season.

After signing with Mid-America, Been feels weight has been lifted off her shoulders and now she can focus on her last season as a Lady Dragon for her basketball team.

"We are looking pretty good for this season," Been said. "We are older and we have matured a lot. I think that is the biggest thing. We have been good but we were young. This year we will be a lot more mature and a lot more experienced and that will be good for us."

Like her teammates, Been, feels that there is "Unfinished Business" for the high-powered squad in the upcoming season.

"This year we want to make it to the state tournament," said Been. "Everybody wants to win but you have to get there first. We definitely want to win but our goal is to get to state. We always get very close, but it never falls our way. Something always keeps happening to us."

The Dewar Lady Dragons have won three consecutive district championships and three straight conference titles from the 2010-12 seasons. They also won back-to-back Okmulgee County Tournament titles.

With Dewar ranked number four in Class A this preseason, making it to state and winning state are possibilities Been hopes are very strong.

I think if we can peak at the right time, we can make it there and win it," said Been. "I want to be able to walk off the floor this year knowing I did everything possible. I want to say I left it all on the court. I want to be able to become as good as I can be. I do not want to have any 'what-ifs' for this year. What if I did it this way, or what if I did it that way. I am tired of 'what-ifs.'"

Been is very happy she will be close to home and have a scholarship waiting for her when she enrolls next year at Mid-America. Been had other schools such as UCO, Utah State, and Connors State College looking at her, but felt that Mid-America was the best fit for her.

"The coaches made me feel that they wanted me," Been said. "They made it known that they wanted me and that stuck out with me. They did not want to see how I did throughout the season and then sign me. They wanted to sign me now. And when I visited the campus–it is a small campus–and I come from a small school so I did not want a culture shock.

Been is also a standout in softball which she will play in addition to basketball for next year.

"With high school I can play anywhere, except pitcher and catcher," said Been. "They had me work out at both shortstop and outfield when I tried out with them (Mid-America). The coach thinks I can play better at shortstop." Been said.

Been wants to major in secondary education with an emphasis on history. She wants to become a coach after her college career.

"I am a concurrent student," said Been. "I will be graduating high school with 36 college hours so I will be graduating as a college freshman. They told me at the rate I am going, I could graduate with my masters in four years. I'm looking into mastering in counseling and psychology and going back into that field."

Been's father and coach, Todd Been, is ready for this upcoming season, but knows it is a bittersweet moment for him and this last year coaching his daughter.

"It is a relief that she has signed," Todd Been said. "She wanted the opportunity to play both softball and basketball, and Mid-America is giving her that chance to do that. Seeing all the hours that she has put in and the reward she gets for all the hard work. It is very nice and I'm very happy for her."

Cheyenne Been has some words to say to the younger generation athletes.

"Don't let somebody tell you, 'you are too small to play sports,'" she said.

Been (Muscogee) is the daughter of Todd and Jean Ann Been. Her clan is Nokose (Bear) and tribal town is Thlopthlocco.

Okmulgee Daily Times/Larry Owen

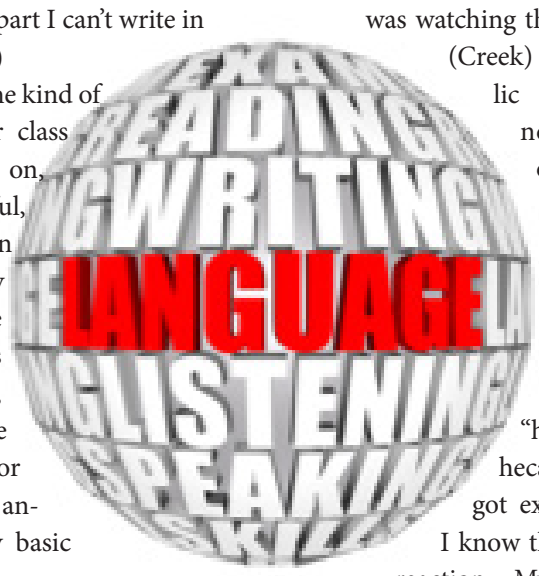
Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizen Cheyenne Been (center front) signed a letter of intent to play basketball for Mid-America Christian University in 2013.

Learning the language, regaining culture: Weeks 9-11

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — WEEK 9: Naken estomecka?—What are you doing?

I'm writing my language diary. (That part I can't write in Creek, yet.)



This is the kind of phrase our class is working on, the useful, common everyday phrase that gets you fed, finds the restroom or helps to answer many basic questions.

Our major exercise for the day was to take another test to use the knowledge we've been taught so far to try and figure out some of these phrases. We had the chance to look over eight—cenvpaken phrases in Creek and match them up with the correct English translations. This one was kind of fun because it covered useful material that wasn't too complicated to learn quickly.

Kerrvks—I don't know. That's a word I am going to find useful.

Mvto vmvhicetkat—thank you for helping me. That's another phrase that is just a bit of a tongue-twister, but will get used a lot as the class moves along. I try to remember the 'action' word usually follows the 'subject.' (By the way, I need to correct an English language phrase I wrote in an earlier diary: you conjugate verbs, not vowels.)

"Vn punayet cv?" is a phrase we learned that reminded me of the movie "Taxi Driver." Remember when actor Robert DiNiro was looking at his mirror saying "Are you talking to me?" I instantly wondered what that would have sounded like in Mvskoke, "Vn punayet cv? Vn punayet cv? There's nobody else here. Vn punayet cv?" (With a New York accent, too). Anyway.

We've worked more on numbers, concentrating on the month, day and year. I think I need to check back with Daria Hicks to make sure I've not gotten them mixed up.

It is now "Ehole—Frost Month, November." It's heading for the month of 'Rvfo Rakko—Big Winter, December,' in the season of 'Rvfo—winter.' It's been an interesting nine—ostvpaken weeks so far. I think about the things I've learned so far and what that represents to me. It's made me think more about what the Mvskoke words would be when I speak to someone in English. I feel good that those Mvskoke words aren't too far from my memory and from use in conversation. I must admit, though, I still have to refer to my written materials a lot. But, acvfvckes—I am happy. I'll leave you with this one you might find useful sometime: "estvn cukoce oca—where are the restrooms?"

WEEKS 10-11: Our class took a break over the Thanksgiving holiday. Mid-November sort of felt like the breaks we used to get in school. It was nice, but it was also a time to be distracted and off-schedule for the language lesson discipline. I ate lots of penwv—turkey, but not as much studying got done as it should have. It was much easier to power-snooze on the couch.

But, in a way, it worked out. I did try with some success at using Mvskoke and understanding it when I heard some. The easiest was watching the Muscogee (Creek) Nation public service announcements on TV. They usually contain a Mvskoke phrase at the end.

I heard "hvtvm cehecares" and I got excited, "Hey! I know that," was my reaction. My wife asked me what it meant and I beamed: "I will see you again." I know, for Mvskoke speakers, this would sound kind of silly, but I felt like I had achieved something—bringing classroom study into everyday life—in my own traditional language. Baby steps, yes—but you've got to take small steps in order to walk.

A Chinese proverb says, "Every journey of 10 thousand miles begins with a single step." (At least I think it was Chinese.)

During this period, I had a newspaper assignment to cover the National Council in mid-November—Ehole—Frost Month. Meetings have the usual invocation with a hymn and its lyrics are shown on the overhead projector. It was great to be able to at least read and pronounce many of the words even if I didn't understand most of them. That felt good as well as being educational. One additional thing about this meeting was that Alex Buck, the assistant pastor at Wetumka church gave the invocation and he doesn't speak English, only Mvskoke. I only got a word here and there, but I felt like that was a small accomplishment.

I didn't make to the Week 11 class. A head cold kept me at home. I missed out on learning names for fruits and vegetables and an all-important review of conversational phrases. I guess I'll go to the food distribution center and read their signs. Many foods have placards that give the names in Mvskoke. I don't think they have a phrase for 'spaghetti sauce' in Mvskoke yet, or, at least, they didn't when I visited there earlier this year.

Week 12 had us learn new words and phrases that added to our ability to stretch our conversational wings a bit more. In our exercise, I chose the number seven—ku lv pa ken.

The phrase is: "Oske waste tos." That translates to: "It is drizzling." I'm sure this Oklahoma drought will let up and give me a chance to use that phrase from time to time.

Media assignments seem to give me the most opportunities to use the Mvskoke language. Recently, I covered the Women's Health Summit in Holdenville. They were plenty of chances to use the greetings. But, there was an exchange with an elder lady that really made me feel like all the weeks of attendance and learning Mvskoke were paying off. After the usual formalities, she asked me what my name was—'naket cehocefkvte?' It took me a second to let it sink in: I understood what she had asked.

'Gary Fife cvhocefkv tos' was my grateful reply. Grateful because, even though this lady didn't know it, she ushered me into the world of those who could use Mvskoke to communicate in the everyday world. It was a single step, but I felt like it was that first step on the 10,000 mile journey.

Recognizing that I still face more than 9,999 miles on the rest of that long journey, I will continue to attend classes and try to learn much more Mvskoke. I realize that I may never be fluent, but I will feel much better that I can contribute to the numbers of Mvskoke speakers and do what I can to help preserve our traditional language.

But, I'm doing this for my own personal satisfaction, too. I feel that my threadbare cultural fabric isn't so threadbare any more.

This is the last entry in my diary of my linguistic experience. I plan to keep attending classes, but there's no sense in repeating here, what I'm learning. I think those readers who have followed my little epic get the idea by now. I'm hoping that somebody else will decide to take their first step in learning our Mvskoke. It is not easy, but it is worth it.

The language program estimated that there are only 5,030 speakers left. I will do my best to make that go up to 5,031.

Our class motto: "Mvskoke opunvkv kerri nowat esvcafve ke tares."

"When I learn my Mvskoke language, I will be happy."

Mvto. Hvtvm cehecares.

MCN artist participates in photography exhibit

Muscogee (Creek) artist Hotvlkuce Harjo contributed several photos to a photography exhibit the Autry National Center in Los Angeles, Calif.

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

MNN/Sterling Cosper
Pictured is Muscogee (Creek) artist Hotvlkuce Harjo (above) and a sample of her work as a photographer (below).

LOS ANGELES — Muscogee (Creek) artist Hotvlkuce (Ha•dul•go•gee) Harjo contributed five photos to the "InSight: Indigenous Youth, Digital Images and Violence Prevention Photography Exhibit" on display at the Autry National Center in Los Angeles, Calif., through November 2013.

The exhibit, featuring photos from seven young Native American artists from different tribes, was a collaborative effort between the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) Gender Studies Department and the American Indian Studies Center.

"I heard about the program through a friend of my mother's. She thought it was perfect for me since I am Native and into photography," Hotvlkuce Harjo said.

The participating artists came up with the following five themes to help focus their work: where we come from, life, things we want to ignore, ways to avoid violence and freestyle.

Hotvlkuce (Little Wind in Mvskoke) Harjo grew up in Tahlequah and spent a lot of time in Sapulpa and Okmulgee where many of her family members live.

"That's where I learned my language, traditions and my culture," she said.

She later moved to Los Angeles, Calif., after her mother was accepted into the doctoral program at the University of Southern California (USC).

"Los Angeles is where I flourished as an artist," she said.

According to her grandmother Ellen Harjo, Hotvlkuce Harjo has always been artistically inclined.

"She has been drawing since she could hold a pencil. When she graduated last year she didn't know what she wanted to do. Her granddad told her, 'you know what you want to do, what you've always done; you're an artist,' " Ellen Harjo said.

Hotvlkuce Harjo is majoring in studio arts with an emphasis in photography at the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) in Santa Fe, N.M., where she is already making an impression, according to her grandfather Duke Harjo.

"She's doing really well. She is an 'A' student. Her professor asked her who she trained with before she came to art school and she said 'nobody,' " Duke Harjo said.

While Hotvlkuce Harjo may have been untrained before entering art school, she certainly has no problem teaching others.

"When she was in California, they would have these workshops for young kids. She used to go out there to volunteer her time to teach those kids how to draw and paint," Duke Harjo said.

Ellen Harjo expressed her feelings about her granddaughter's success.

"We're really proud of her," she said.

Buck preaches sermons in Mvskoke language

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Alex Buck speaks only Mvskoke

Darren DeLaune
MNN Sports Reporter

WETUMKA–At the National Council session on Nov. 17, Associate Pastor Alex Buck opened with a song and prayer in the Mvskoke language. What a lot of people may not know is that he only speaks Mvskoke, peppered with very few English words here and there.

Buck, 81, grew up outside of Wetumka, Okla., where he did not go to school because of a disability. He is blind in one eye and was raised by his mother, Bella Wesley, until her passing when he was five. From then on, he lived with his grandparents, Jennie (Hopiye) and Daniel Wesley. When they passed, his aunt Abbie (Wesley) Coachman took care of him.

Through his translator, his cousin Lucinda Coachman, Buck explained his youth.

"I did not go to school growing up," Buck said. "My parents and my grandmother taught me how to speak Creek and taught me what I needed to learn.

Some that grow up where other languages are spoken instead of their primary language that you are used too, have difficulty adapting. This was not the case for Buck. When he was growing up, everyone spoke Creek around his house. Even in town, people spoke a little bit of Creek so they were able to talk to him. The ones that did not speak Creek learned, so they could carry a conversation with him.

MNN/Darren DeLaune

Pastor Alex Buck preaches to members of the congregation of Wetumka Indian Baptist Church.

"I had friends who were white," Buck said. "They knew that I only spoke Creek so they learned some of the language so we could still play together."

Buck became a member of Wetumka Indian Baptist Church in 1946. Since that time, Buck has served in many areas throughout the church. He has served as acting and ordained deacon, head deacon, ordained minister and pastor. Buck has preached many sermons at numerous churches over the years.

"He rarely misses church," Coachman said. "Every once in a while he might miss a Sunday. There was a duration of about four months that he missed church because of an illness, back in 2006. When he was well enough to come back to the church, he stood in front of the congregation and asked everyone for forgiveness because of his absence."

Most people who have blindness use the tactile system called Braille to be able to read. The Braille system is writing and printing for blind or visually impaired people, in which varied arrangements of raised dots representing letters and numerals are identified by touch. In Buck's case, he was never taught braille nor did he have a special Bible made for him. He teaches himself by having someone read to him what part of the Bible he wishes to talk about. He listens and memorizes and prays so he will be prepared for the sermon he preaches to members of his church.

"He will tell us what he would like to preach about, or what certain part of the Bible he wants to talk about," Coachman said. "We will read it to him and that is how he picks it up. He also has tapes on preaching about the Holy Bible and that helps him to learn and prepare also."

Buck does not have an interpreter during his sermons. His whole sermon is spoken only in Mvskoke. While some do find it difficult to understand some parts of his preaching, Buck feels that the Holy Spirit is there with everyone and that helps the congregation understand what he is saying.

"There are some members that probably do not understand," Buck said. "Sometimes it is difficult to explain what I'm trying to preach. I feel that if the Holy Spirit is there among us, they do understand what is being said."

Buck knows the language is in danger of losing fluent speakers. He offers some advice to help preserve the language.

"We need to talk Creek every chance that we get," Buck said. "We need to talk to each other in Creek. If we do not do this, our language will fade out."

Buck offered advice for all churches throughout the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

"If all the churches continue to work and pray," Buck said. "Then we will overcome any obstacle that is in front of us."

Buck's Tribal Town is Tukvpvtce and his clan is Sweet Potato.

Health Summit travels to Holdenville

Annual MCN Division of Health event makes southern route

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

HOLDENVILLE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) brought its annual Women's Health Summit to this southern part of the nation, Nov. 30 to focus on health issues facing Creek women in the Holdenville area.

Sponsored by the Community Health Representative program, several dozen attendees heard presentations on services available to them through the Health Department and other community resource groups. Vendors share information on diabetes, tobacco use cessation and other topics of particular interest to Native women.

According to MCN Secretary of Health Lt. Seneca Smith, they're trying to serve Muscogee women in all parts of the tribal jurisdiction, "We're trying to cover all ages, all areas, so we can make them aware and alert on what's out there, what's new and, mainly, answer whatever questions they may have. Education is the key today."

To effectively serve the tribe, Smith said it was critical that all parts of the Muscogee Nation had these summits, "We have 11 counties to cover. What we try to do is focus on each area so that each citizen can get an opportunity to ask whatever questions they may have. It gives us an opportunity to educate also." Combatting diabetes is one priority for all areas, Smith said. The location of this community made a huge difference, he said, in whether or not these local Muscogee women were receiving the education and care they needed.

MNN/Gary Fife

Participants received health information as part of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Health's Women's Health Summit Nov. 30 in Holdenville, Okla.

In listening to the attendees, Smith noted that care of elders was on the minds of this group. "Eldercare kind of stuck out quite a bit today. I heard that quite a lot from those I spoke to, today. I'm glad we got a jump-start on that."

Anna Marshall delivered the morning address. She concentrated on the subjects of Native spirituality and identity She emphasized how important those ideas are to women's overall well-being, "Now that we have broadened ourselves, we're not just a woman 'locally', we're a world of woman now, so we've expanded our boundaries, we've expanded our horizons, we've expanded our exposure to the world. To do that, we need to have a strong spiritual sense of who we are and we also need to have a strong identity. That gets challenged all the time and in all places."

She pointed out that she was not speaking of either Christian or traditional beliefs, but it was important to have some kind of spiritual elements in Native women's lives. She said, it was the resource that has helped Native women overcome the challenges of today, "Spirituality has gotten us through struggles, it has helped us overcome the struggles and the barriers placed in front of us by the dominant society as well as sometimes, even ourselves. We want to be healthy, but we want to be healthy spiritually."

The fourth annual Health Summit wrapped up with a light show and an opportunity for participants to interact with vendors and educators.

Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive feeds Muscogee families

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) National Council hosted their fifth annual Thanksgiving Food Drive Nov. 14 and 16.

National Council representatives and staff, local businesses, MCN employees, citizens and subsidiaries all contributed to the drive, which saw its biggest year to date with a total 135 baskets donated to Muscogee (Creek) citizens in need.

Business owners in Okmulgee contributed food. Donors including: Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise, National Council Attorney Zeke Fletcher and Creek Nation Casino Checotah gave monetary contributions and MCN citizens and employees gave food and money to help fill the baskets.

Employees from several MCN departments and institutions including: Arbor Care, Children and Family and Senior Services as well as Geospatial, Higher Education, the Emergency Management Response Team and the Office of the Principal Chief all volunteered their time to put together and distribute the baskets.

Former National Council Attorney Yonne Tiger, who now represents the MCN administration, previously coordinated the event.

"She was the one that was instrumental in it going to the next level," MCN National Council Speaker Sam Alexander said.

The Women's Caucus of the Council orchestrated this year's drive.

"It would have been very easy for them to say, 'well Yonne is gone, we did it last year,' but they didn't do that; they did it themselves," Alexander said.

Ade credited the Council staff for helping the Women's Caucus coordinate the drive.

"They really did a lot of the work…it was a combined effort," she said.

According to Alexander, the staff began planning around September.

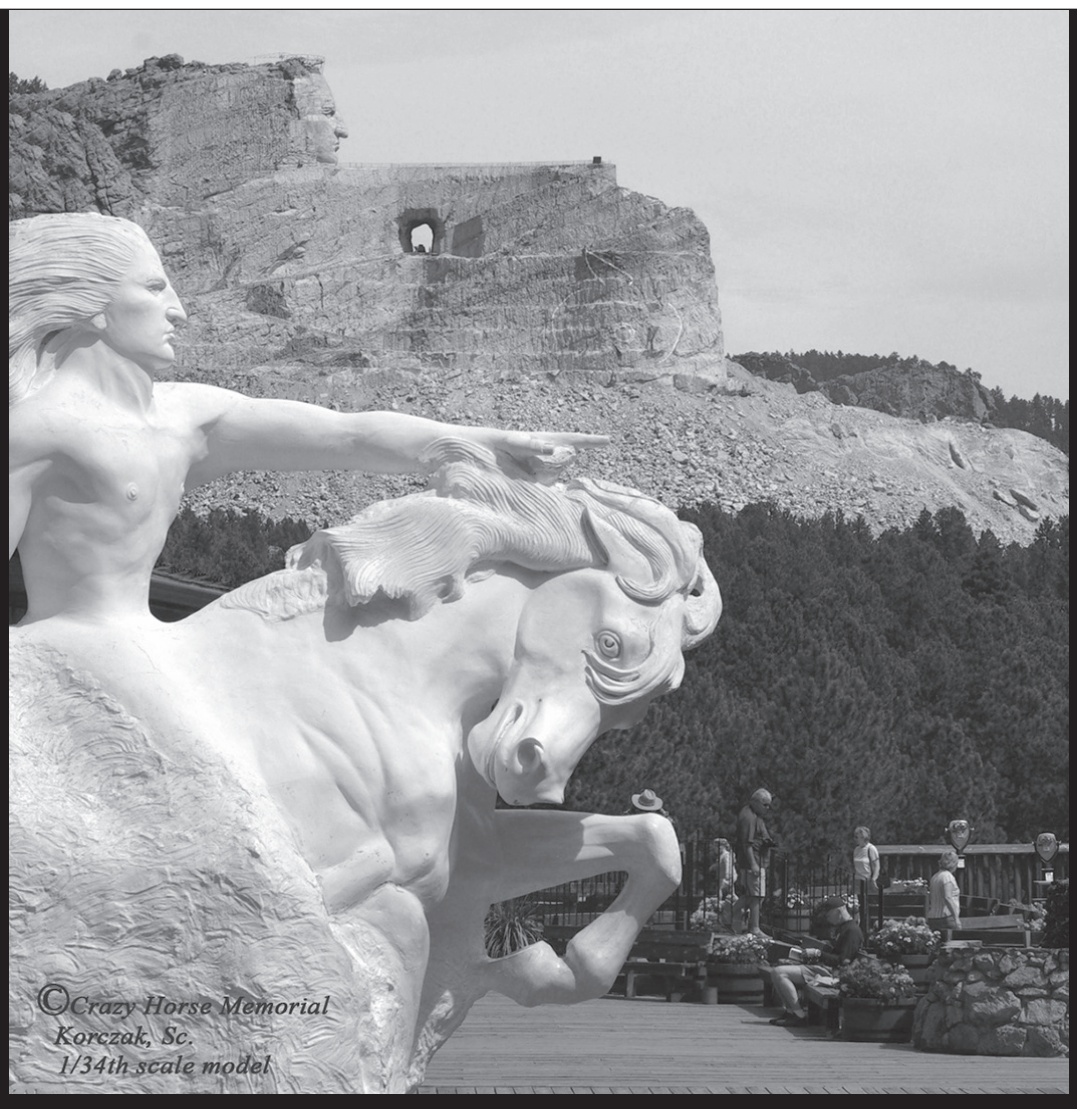
"Boxes started coming in around October," he said. "They really had this down to an art form."

This was National Council Secretary Kristie Sewell's first year participating.

"It was a lot of work…it just gave me a warm feeling in my heart to help a family like that," Sewell said.

Photo submitted by MCN/National Council staff

Mona 'KoKo' Lowe with the Tribal Employment and Rights Office (left) and Anjanette Coker with the MCN Department of Higher Education (right) wrap baskets given to MCN citizens in need, as part of the National Council's Thanksgiving Food Drive.



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OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In re the marriage of SAYTON,	)	DISTRICT COURT FILED
Jana R. Slayton,	)	**Case No. DV 2007-24**
Petitioner,	)	2012 NOV 16 AM 11 11
vs.	)	
	)	**Judge Cripps** MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATIO DONNA BEAVER COURT CLERK
John R. Slayton,	)	
Respondent.	)	

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Robie King
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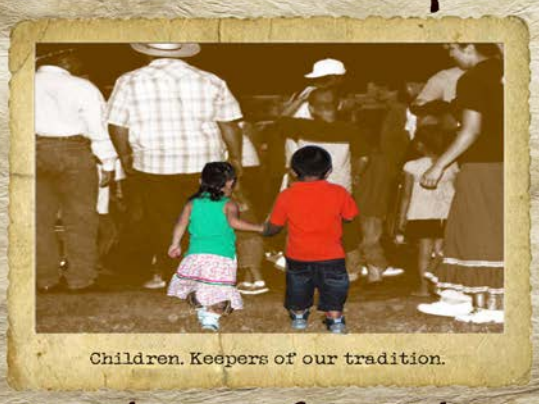

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Community Calendar December 2012

MCN Reintegration Program to host 4th annual Holiday Toy Drive

HENRYETTA — The MCN Reintegration Program (RIP) is having its 4th annual Holiday Toy Drive to ensure that children with incarcerated family members have gifts for the holidays.

For more information, including drop off sites call 918-652-2676.

MCN T & R hosts Coat Drive through Dec. 20

OKMULGEE — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tourism & Recreation is now accepting new or gently used coats of all sizes, hats, gloves and scarves.

Donations may be dropped off at the T & R offices located at the main complex at the MCN and will be cleaned before being distributed to those in need.

For more information, call 918-732-7992.

Wewoka Indian UMC to host Christmas program Dec. 23

YEAGER — Wewoka Indian United Methodist Church, located just north of Yeager, will host a Christmas program Dec. 23 beginning at 3 p.m. Everyone is invited to come celebrate Christmas and spend the day at church. Morning services will begin at 11 a.m.

For more information, contact Ryan Smith at: Ryan.Smith@bia.gov.

Homemade pies available for holiday purchase

OKEMAH — Mvskoke elder Carol Tiger is selling a variety of homemade pies for the holidays.

All pies except pecan are $7 a piece including order and delivery. Pecan Pies are $9 and cobblers are $10.

For more information call Tiger at 918-716-8267.

New Years Eve Sobriety Pow-wow set for Dec. 31

TULSA — The Friends of Sobriety is hosting the 12th annual New Years Eve Sobriety Pow-wow Dec. 31 at 100 Civic Center in downtown Tulsa.

The event is free to the public. For more information contact Lorraine Bosin at 918-639-7999 or Karl Beaston at 918-832-1981.

Mvskoke Language Revitalization Program to host community meetings starting Jan. 8

WETUMKA — The Mvskoke Language Revitalization Program will host community meetings beginning Jan. 8, 2013 from 6-7 p.m., at the MCN Southern Regional Office located at 333 S. Washita in Wetumka, Okla.

A second meeting will be held Jan. 15, 2013 from 6-7 p.m., at the Glenpool Indian Community Center located at 13839 S. Casper, Glenpool, Okla.

Mvskoke language classes to start Jan. 14 in Weleetka

WELEETKA — Mvskoke language classes will be offered at the Weleetka Indian Community Center beginning Jan. 14-15 from 6-8 p.m. Classes are free and open to the community.

For more information, please call 918-732-7724.

CMN and MCN to host 'College Goal Sunday' Feb. 10

OKMULGEE — The College of the Muscogee Nation, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Employment & Training Administration and Higher Education will host College Goal Sunday Feb. 10, 2013 from 2- 4 p.m. The registration deadline to attend is Jan. 25.

High school seniors, other adults and their families can receive assistance in applying for financial aid for college or technical school, obtain information about services offered by the MCN, meet with representatives from local schools and win prizes.

MCN Tribal Driveways Program accepting applications

OKMULGEE — The Tribal Driveways Program is accepting applications for repair of accessible driveways for property owners who reside within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation boundaries. Applicant must be enrolled with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation tribe.

Organization applications are also available for Muscogee (Creek) Nation ceremonial grounds, tribal towns, community centers, churches and when needed, family cemeteries that are within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation boundaries.

For more information or to request an application call 918-732-7651 or 1-800-482-1979.

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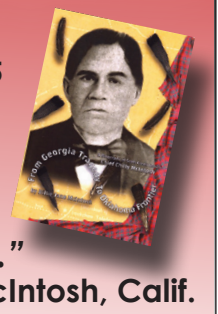

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